IPI to pay past dues in sexual harassment suit. PAGE 2

Torres says more tourists, airlines coming. PAGE 6

$1

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

www.saipantribune.com **THURSDAY** OCTOBER 21, 2021 www.facebook.com/saipantribune

KILILI WILL SEEK RE-ELECTION

Palacios to run as governor

Palacios

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Arnold Indalecio Palacios confirmed yesterday that he will be running for governor with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang as his running mate for the November 2022 election.

Palacios, a Republican, told the media that he and Apatang will be running "at this point" as an independent slate.

Palacios made the disclosure a day after Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced on social media and through a letter to

See PALACIOS on Page 4

Sablan

Magofna sworn in as representative

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Corina L. Magofna (D-Saipan) promised yesterday to "look beyond party lines" when making important deci-

See MAGOFNA on Page 4

Rep. Corina L. Magofna (D-Saipan) takes her oath of office before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja during a ceremony at the House of Representatives chamber yesterday morning. Also in the photo are Magofna's husband, Joseph Rios, and their daughter, Aiyani (party hidden).

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

US to lift restrictions Nov. 8 for vaccinated foreign travelers

WASHINGTON (Reuters)—The White House will lift COVID-19 travel restrictions for fully vaccinated international visitors starting Nov. 8, ending historic restrictions that had barred much of the world from entering the United States for as long as 21 months.

See US on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- **Red:** Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 5:58pm, Oct. 20, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **83%**

Days since last community transmission: **210**

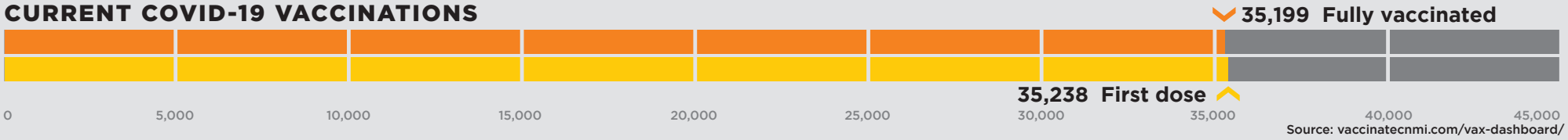
Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	30,356
Fully Vaccinated:	29,689
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,882
Fully Vaccinated:	4,689
Janssen	
Fully Vaccinated:	821

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	17,154	122	17,276
Recovered	14,206	154	14,360
Active	2,568	122	2,690
Deaths	226	0	226

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	289	0	289
Traced via Travel Screening	252	0	252
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	3	0	3

Source: Joint Information Center – Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

LOCAL

The Marianas Tourism Education Council takes it "Safe Travel & Marianas Tourism" to Tinian.

PAGE 7

ENVIRONMENT

Dive shop FishGuyz Scuba & Charter goes out of its way to help protect the ocean.

PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE

Queen Elizabeth II is Britain's longest-lived and longest-reigning monarch. But don't call her an oldie.

PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

CORINA
MAGOFNA
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTES OF CONFIDENCE.
Biba Marianas!
TO MY FAMILIES, COMMITTEES, DONORS, AND SUPPORTERS
Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase yan Ghilisow!
CNMI

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AND THE MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
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MARIANAS
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Local

IPI to pay past dues in sexual harassment suit

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Yumul

Ray Yumul, the interim chief executive officer of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, said that IPI expects to pay off the past due balance under the consent decree with the U.S Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to purge itself of contempt in the case involving a former IPI VIP hostess claiming sexual harassment.

According to Yumul, IPI CNMI is expecting a wire transfer of approximately $180,000 from IPI Holdings Ltd., its mother company based in Hong Kong, no later than this week.

The funds, Yumul said, will pay off roughly $75,000 of the past due balance in the consent decree. IPI will used the remaining funds to make payments on other court judgments, including Xerox Corp., Banes, Horey, Berman & Miller, and other IPI creditors.

"We received notice from Hong Kong that a wire remittance from Hong Kong Holdings to Hong Kong IPI CNMI. That's in process. Approximately $180,000 is being made available to pay these cases. There may be a little extra. But I'm expecting no less than $180,000 just to settle the pending ones. We expect that this week. Hong Kong is aware of all the order to show cause cases and the amounts that were past due and needed to be made current so they are sending an amount that should cover these cases," he said.

Last week, the U.S. District Court for the NMI found IPI in contempt anew for noncompliance with the consent decree to pay former employees who claim they were sexually harassed while they were working for the company.

Chief Judge Ramona Manglona found IPI in contempt for failure to pay the monthly payments for August and September 2021 as stated in the consent decree between IPI and the U.S EEOC.

Manglona ordered IPI Holdings, Ltd., mother company of IPI CNMI, to pay the balance no later than Friday, Oct. 29, for the balance outstanding, including daily per diem and interest pursuant to the consent decree. Payments must be made directly to the claimants or EEOC.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, EEOC sued IPI on Sept. 24, 2019, for sexual harassment and unfair employment practices on behalf of a former VIP hostess and other female employees. EEOC alleged that IPI subjected the claimants to unwelcome physical and verbal sexual harassment by male patrons.

IPI denied the allegations and asked the court to rule in its favor and dismiss the complaint with prejudice.

In April 2021, IPI agreed to settle the claims and resolve the lawsuit. It entered into a consent decree that was approved by the court on April 27, 2021.

‘Christmas will be a very busy shipping season’

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

If you want your Christmas card or gifts to reach your loved ones in time for Christmas this year, better send it now—the earlier the better.

The U.S. Postal Service Saipan encourages everyone to mail out their Christmas mail or parcel in advance as it is expecting an rush of activities this yuletide season, and they predict the amount of Christmas-bound parcels this year to exceed last year’s. The same advice holds true for online shoppers—order them in advance so they are not caught in the flurry of mail that will descend on the USPS this Christmas.

“It is going to be a very heavy shipping season so anything that the public may want for Christmas or holidays, for birthdays, and other celebrations, try to order in advance as much as possible,” said Postmaster Harry Wilcox.

Currently, priority mail takes around 15 days and the standard mail has always taken around two months.

“If you’re going to have somebody send you something from the mainland and it’s standard mail, parcel select, or retail ground, any of those come by ships. In the U.S. mainland, this means trucks and trains and here in the CNMI, it means boat. So, if you see an item go through Richmond, California or San Francisco, California, that usually means that’s where it was staged into the containers and that’s going to be a two-month journey,” Wilcox added.

He said it would be prudent for people to purchase items from the U.S. mainland or send mail or packages at least a month prior to Christmas. “Depending on the retailer that you order from, like if they use UPS or FedEx primarily, those companies do not have a big presence with us out here. When items come via those shippers, they are going to give it to us to deliver the last mile and, when they do that, they choose the lowest service available to them which is ‘parcel select’ or ‘parcel post,’ which is a surface selection (also known as sea mail—mail or package transported by land and sea) so it is going to be slow.”

“…and we don’t have any control over that because it’s not the Post Office that chooses how that item is sent, but the level of service that you pay for with the Postal Service. The advantage in the [U.S.] mainland is that if they have a backlog, they can hire more freighters to handle the volume. All our mail comes out here via commercial air-

See CHRISTMAS on Page 4

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2015 FORD EXPLORER XLT — SALE PRICE $22,995 • 18,617 MILES • STK: 15HS981 • KBB: $23,603
2016 MAZDA MAZDA6 SPORT — SALE PRICE $14,995 • 56,800 MILES • STK:16R269 • KBB: $14,450
2015 TOYOTA CAMRY LE — SALE PRICE $19,995 • 44,202 MILES • STK: 15P325 • KBB: $20,295
2020 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL — SALE PRICE $24,995 • 17,834 MILES • STK: 20H072D • KBB: $25,535
2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER — SALE PRICE $16,995 • 39,217 MILES • STK: 20H068A • KBB: $16,830
2018 MAZDA 3 MAZDA3 — SALE PRICE $19,295 • 11,576 MILES • STK:18HS902 • KBB: $19,328
2017 TOYOTA SIENNA — SALE PRICE $24,995 • 53,000 MILES • STK: 17P334 • KBB: $25,435
2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT — SALE PRICE $18,995 • 10,120 MILES • STK:8HS879 • KBB: $19,904
2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA — SALE PRICE $19,995 • 11,110 MILES • STK:20P307A • KBB: $21,593
2019 HONDA CR-V LX — SALE PRICE $25,995 • 24,306 MILES • STK: 21D019B • KBB: $26,748
2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 — SALE PRICE $18,995 • 10,324 MILES • STK:18HS904 • KBB: $19,904
2019 MAZDA CX-3 SPORT — SALE PRICE $20,995 • 21,100 MILES • STK: 19C008 • KBB: $21,551
2015 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT — SALE PRICE $31,995 • 70,502 MILES • STK: 5P279 • KBB: $32,299
2011 TOYOTA 4RUNNER — SOLD — SALE PRICE $18,995 • 77,762 MILES • STK:11P314 • KBB: $21,336
2020 HYUNDAI KONA SPORT — SALE PRICE $21,995 • 9,680 MILES • STK: 22M010A • KBB: $22,196
2018 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT 4WD — SALE PRICE $45,995 • 26,205 MILES • STK: 18P345

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Task force has final say in Butterfield case

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES and JOSHUA SANTOS
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTERS

The man who fled quarantine at Kanoa Resort last Sunday evening could possibly be released following the completion of his mandatory quarantine period, and it all depends on the decision of the COVID-19 Task Force, said the Department of Public Safety.

According to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Dre Pangelinan, the COVID-19 Task Force will have the final say on whether David Butterfield will be released to Department of Corrections custody following his quarantine period in Kanoa, or whether he will be free to return home.

Following his arrest last Monday, it was learned that Butterfield was charged with obstruction of justice and public nuisance and returned to the Kanoa quarantine facility after being booked and detained.

Task force chair Warren Villagomez separately assured that the task force and other health officials take the CNMI's COVID-19 protocols and the safety of the community seriously.

In a phone call Wednesday, he said that additional security has since been added at all current quarantine sites and that the task force, DOS, and other related agencies have been "looking into the situation" and investigating how Butterfield left the quarantine site.

"We reassessed our access points at Kanoa and [Pacific Islands Club Saipan], and we're making sure that DPS and [security company] G4S [at] Kanoa stay vigilant. … I, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and [Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.] chief executive officer Esther Muña take this seriously," he added.

Further details on what penalties will be imposed on Butterfield, as well as an official announcement regarding the matter, will be made public later, he added.

Villagomez also said Wednesday that he and the CNMI's other health leaders must do their part in engaging with their work and communicating effectively with the public and warned those in quarantine inspired by Butterfield's actions against attempting to leave their sites. "You won't be out too long, and you will be detained immediately for the safety of our people," he said.

According to the *Saipan Tribune* archives, DPS arrested Butterfield last Monday after he fled the Kanoa Resort quarantine facility six days into his mandatory quarantine.

Butterfield, who arrived from Guam on Oct. 12, was arrested around 11:13am last Monday after police pulled him over in the parking area of American Nails in Garapan.

Butterfield, who is a freelance photographer, claims he walked straight out of the quarantine facility on Sunday evening. In a lengthy note he posted on social media hours before his arrest, he said he left Kanoa because he did not agree with the task force's quarantine protocols for non-vaccinated individuals.

Butterfield also noted in his post that he is not vaccinated and had already have COVID-19 but has since recovered.

According to the renewed executive order regarding COVID-19 safety measures issued by the Office of the Governor, violators of the mandatory quarantine protocol will receive a maximum sentence of no more than one-year imprisonment, and/or no more than a $500 fine.

The entry requirement that took effect back last Sept. 24 states that all inbound travelers originating from a Level 3 or higher jurisdiction on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention travel recommendations list who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are required to quarantine for seven days in a designated government facility if they submit a negative PCR test dated no earlier than 48 hours prior to arrival, or 10 days if they do not submit a negative PCR test dated no earlier than 48 hours prior to arrival.

Fully vaccinated travelers are still required to quarantine for five days in a designated government facility.

The revised entry requirements for unvaccinated travelers is based on guidance from the CDC.

PALACIOS

From Page 1

the editor that he will be seeking re-election as a delegate.

"It is in Congress I can best serve to make the lives of people of the Northern Marianas better. That is the work I will continue to do for you if you so choose on election day next year," said the 66-year-old Sablan.

He said the truth is that the CNMI's problem is more than one corrupt individual. "We have allowed a culture of corruption to grow in our society, where many see what is happening, but too few are willing to say stop," Sablan said. "Until more say *basta* (stop), the corruption will continue, no matter who is governor."

Sablan became the CNMI's first elected delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2008. He is currently serving his seventh term.

Sablan's announcement Tuesday ended the Democratic Party's hope to have him as their candidate for governor to challenge the candidacy of incumbent Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in next year's election.

Palacios said yesterday that he and Apatang will officially announce their intent to run at a declaration ceremony at the Minachom Atdao today, Thursday, at 2:30pm.

Besides Palacios, so far it has only been incumbent Gov. Ralph DLG Torres who has already said he will run next year. His running mate is Sen. Vinnie Vinson Sablan (R-Saipan).

When asked why he decided to run against Torres, Palacios said there are "a lot of things wrong" in the Commonwealth. "There's a crisis in our Commonwealth, a crisis of confidence in our government," said Palacios during an interview with the media in the House of Representatives Speaker's conference room shortly after the swearing in ceremony of Rep. Corina L. Magofna (D-Saipan).

Despite all the resources that have been made available to the CNMI, they still see people struggling, he added.

"I think Dave [Apatang] and I have the qualification and the acumen to make a huge difference in short order. It's really about management and trust," he said.

Palacios said he was very surprised at the overture of the Democratic Party when it announced to the public that they would welcome him, like any other persons interested to serve the people, if he submits a letter of intent to run under the Democratic Party. He said to be considered by the Democratic Party is something that he and Apatang have not sat down to talk about and discuss.

"But I want to say that we certainly appreciate the overture that the Democratic Party has made to us," the 66-year-old Palacios said.

Palacios was elected lieutenant governor with Torres in 2018. Torres and Palacios began their terms in January 2019.

Palacios used to serve as a Saipan senator and became Speaker of the House's 16th Legislature.

Some say that Palacios' candidacy will split the votes of the Republicans as Torres is the titular head of GOP. This is being seen as beneficial to whoever is the Democratic Party's candidate for governor and lieutenant governor.

MAGOFNA

From Page 1

sions on legislations that affect the well-being and interests of people in the Commonwealth.

"I am hopeful and optimistic that all of my colleagues here share the same notion of looking beyond party lines," said Magofna soon after sworn into office.

Magofna took her oath of office before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja during a ceremony held at the House of Representatives' chamber. Beside Magofna was her husband, Joseph Rios, and their daughter, Aiyani. Their son, Darius, is in the U.S. mainland.

The chamber was packed with Magofna's family, friends, supporters, and Democratic Party officials and members.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, a Republican, attended the ceremony. Among those present was Carlos S. Camacho, a Democrat and the CNMI's first governor.

In her speech, Magofna said she looks forward to working with all members of the 22nd Legislature on the shared vision of making the Marianas a great place to live.

"Because this is not a Republican Marianas or a Democrat Marianas. We are One Marianas. And together, we can make it better!" said Magofna, drawing cheers from representatives, some senators, guests, and the audience.

She opened her speech by extending, on her and her family's behalf, condolences and prayers to the families, friends, and colleagues of the late representative Ivan Alafanso Blanco, whose seat she will be taking over.

Magofna said Blanco was a great statesman, and was well loved and respected by everyone. She said Blanco's accomplishments and the years of service and dedication that he has contributed to the people of Precinct 3 and the CNMI will never be forgotten.

Blanco, a Republican, passed away last July 23. This triggered a special election for the vacant House Precinct 3 seat last Saturday, where Magofna handily defeated Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae of the Republican Party.

Magofna said she is now officially sworn in to fill the vacant House seat, not a Republican seat, or a Democrat seat, but the People's seat.

She recalled that when she was doing her house-to-house visits during the campaign, she would always start off by introducing herself and why she's standing in front of someone's yard or doorstep. "Then I would say I'm not sure which political party you are affiliated with, but I humbly ask that you please look beyond the party lines, take some time to read about my platform, my credentials and my work experience, and please consider giving me your vote of confidence," she said.

In return, Magofna said, she made a promise to reciprocate the very same action should she get elected. "To the people of Precinct 3, thank you for your consideration and a huge thank you for your votes of confidence," she said.

Magofna first ran for the House last November, but she was 34 votes short of securing victory.

Magofna is a former budget officer at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. She has a bachelor's degree in Business Accounting from the University of Phoenix, and an associate degree in Accounting from the University of Hawaii.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, a Republican, echoed Manglona's statement that it is not a party issue any more. "Whether you are a Republican, you're a Democrat, you're now a member of the House of Representatives to represent the people of the Commonwealth," Palacios said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

US

From Page 1

The unprecedented travel restrictions kept millions of visitors out of the United States from China, Canada, Mexico, India, Brazil, much of Europe and elsewhere; shrunk U.S. tourism; and hurt border community economies. They prevented many loved ones and foreign workers from reuniting with families.

"Oh, how I've missed Christmas in NY," Alexandros Koronakis, an executive with AT&T Inc in Brussels, wrote on Twitter.

U.S. allies had heavily lobbied the Biden administration to lift the rules. Many praised the announcement, including Sweden's ambassador to the United States Karin Olofsdotter, who called it "very welcoming news."

White House spokesman Kevin Munoz confirmed the Nov. 8 date on Twitter, adding the policy «is guided by public health, stringent, and consistent.»

Restrictions on non-U.S. citizens were first imposed on air travelers from China in January 2020 by then-President Donald Trump and then extended to dozens of other countries, without any clear metrics for how and when to lift them.

Curbs on non-essential travelers at land borders with Mexico and Canada have been in place since March 2020 to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

U.S. international air passenger traffic was down 43% in August and overall passenger air traffic was down 21% over pre-pandemic levels, the U.S. Transportation Department said Friday.

Airlines have seen an increase in international ticket sales in recent weeks after the White House announced plans to lift the restrictions, Nick Calio, chief executive of the Airlines for America industry trade group, said in a statement.

Calio said the "full reopening of international travel is also critical to reviving economies around the globe, reinvigorating communities and supporting millions of jobs in the U.S. and abroad."

CHRISTMAS

From Page 3

line, so when the volume increases, these cubes [of mail and parcel] get less and less on United Airline planes because they are handling several things, including passengers and so forth, and it becomes a clogged artery type issue. …If those lines are full, mail is going to be sluggish," he added.

According to Wilcox, the CNMI get mail via plane and container on one of the ships every couple of weeks. "Sometimes once a week, depending on the number of what the volume dictates but we get a container from Guam for retail ground or standard mail. …For mail going out, they go via air. So when you mail, it goes to Guam, then gets to Honolulu to get distributed to the U.S. mainland. If you are sending out internationally, it doesn't get distributed internationally until it hits Honolulu or Los Angeles International Service Center. Then it gets sent to, say the Philippines, South Korea, or wherever you are mailing."

Wilcox assured that even with the predicted influx of activity at the Postal Service, they always try to be accommodating during the rush to continuously provide needed service. That means they either open earlier or close later. They also hire more help to try to deal with the workflow.

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Torres says more tourists, airlines coming

Work ongoing to bring back Japanese tourists

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With more tourists coming to the CNMI in the next few months and more airlines wanting to add Saipan to their routes, the administration, through the Marianas Visitors Authority, is now working on bringing back Japanese tourists, said Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres Friday .

In response to questions during his regular radio briefing, Torres said they are seeing the number of tourists go up, especially in the next two months and into January 2022, mostly because the CNMI remains safe from COVID-19.

He said they are seeing more airlines coming in and wanting to add Saipan as their additional destination.

"Now we're communicating with Japan," the governor said.

Torres said things are getting much better in terms with the Travel Bubble program. "That what's going to bring back the economy and those folks that do not have jobs," he said.

Torres said the difference between what they signed with South Korea on the Travel Bubble program is because of Korea's low number of COVID-19 cases. "There's reciprocity in that agreement," he said.

In order for the CNMI's Travel Bubble to work as well with Japan, Torres said they need to be more specific on what kind of travel arrangements are agreeable to both Japan and the CNMI. "At the end of the day, they know we're safe. We want them to come," Torres said.

MVA board chair Viola Alepuyo recently disclosed that Japanese golfers are starting to show an interest in returning to Saipan after over a year of absence as a result of the pandemic.

MVA's Tourism Resumption Program Korea chair Ivan Quichocho also recently disclosed that discussions are ongoing between MVA's Japan partners and TRIP Japan chair Nick Nishikawa on how to approach a Travel Bubble-type program between Saipan and Japan.

Torres cited that the recent signing between the Department of Public Lands and Hyatt Regency Saipan for a new 40-year land lease was a strong statement to the CNMI's Japan market, Japan businesses.

"You see that partnership that we value, long-term partnerships here with our business partners. And we want them for the next 40 years. I look forward to capitalizing on those relationship and friendship," Torres said.

Torres said they have been pushing hard in bringing back the CNMI's tourism market primarily to improve the economy and thereby create jobs. He said in trying to bring in tourists, they also need to stabilize the CNMI's healthcare system.

The governor said if the CNMI is battling COVID itself and considering the CNMI's available resources, the chance to bring in tourists would be an additional burden. He said he is just very blessed to have good first responders and a cooperative community. He said one way to revive the CNMI's tourism industry is for the people continue practicing social distancing as much as they can.

"When you go into the store, wear masks. When you go to restaurants wear masks," the governor said.

Info session to feature NMC business program

Members of the community who would like to learn more about the programs offered by Northern Marianas College's School of Business are invited to attend a free information session today, Oct. 21, 2021, at NMC's Olympio T. Borja Library located in Building O. The info session will be held from 5pm to 6pm.

NMC's School of Business offers multiple degree programs, such as:

- Bachelor of Science in Business Management
- Accounting Concentration
- Associate of Arts in Business
- Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration
- Accounting Emphasis
- Business Management Emphasis
- Computer Applications Emphasis
- A.A.S. Associate in Applied Science in Hospitality Management

In addition to the admission process, college personnel will talk about the available local and federal financial aid for the spring 2022 semester.

Participants of the info session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming spring 2022 semester, a savings of about $75. As part of NMC's COVID-19 safety protocols, participants are asked to wear masks or face coverings when on campus.

The first day of classes will be on Jan. 18, 2022. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply now to register for courses and for financial aid. Currently, up to $3,247 is available in federal financial aid to qualified students.

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming spring 2022 semester or to apply for admission, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

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/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

MTEC, MVA talk 'Safe Travel' with Tinian students

The Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority took their message of "Safe Travel & Marianas Tourism" to students at Tinian Jr./Sr. High School last Wednesday, Oct. 13.

The presentation was part of MTEC's annual school outreach to educate students on the Marianas tourism industry, the MVA, and how young people can support tourism.

"On behalf of the Tinian Jr Sr High School students and teachers, we extend our appreciation to the Marianas Tourism Council for their recent visit and presentation to all 9th and 10th grade students on the importance of preserving our heritage to promote tourism in our islands," said TJSHS interim principal Lizabeth Hofschneider.

Acting MTEC chair Vicky Benavente began the presentation with a general overview of the Marianas tourism industry. MTEC board member Catherine Perry shared general standards visitors look for to feel confident a destination is safe and details of the Tourism Resumption Investment Plan program and safety protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the Marianas. MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda detailed the overall responsibilities of the MVA in promoting the Marianas, and MVA Tinian Field Operations supervisor Vida Borja informed students about the responsibilities of the MVA Tinian office.

"I am so amazed and appreciative," said Borja after visiting the school. "The students were very receptive and well aware of what is currently happening locally and globally, especially with the effects of the pandemic on our economy that is solely dependent on tourism."

Tenth-graders of Tinian Jr./Sr. High in San Jose, Tinian, learn about tourism and the Marianas Visitors Authority on Oct. 13, 2021. Pictured are acting Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente, left in blue, students, and other MTEC and MVA representatives.

MTEC

MTEC presents annually to public schools and is targeting 10th grade in school year 2021-2022. Other MTEC board members are Priscilla M. Iakopo (MVA), Martin Duenas (MVA), Galvin Guerrero (Northern Marianas College), Larry Lee, Naomi Nishimura (CNMI Public School System), Gordon Marciano (Pacific Development Inc.), and Glenn Policare (Kanoa Resort). Dr. Yunzi Zhang of the NMC School of Business also volunteers with the council and donated school supplies for the Tinian outreach.

Schools interested in starting a MY WAVE Club may contact Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or 670-664-3200. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

The COVID pandemic is global; the road to recovery is, too

The Biden administration announced two important steps that should bolster the nation's recovery from the pandemic. On Tuesday, the White House said it would lift travel restrictions at the borders with Canada and Mexico, reestablishing some ties after months of lockdowns spurred by COVID-19. And Wednesday, the administration unveiled a brokered agreement with major ports, retailers and shippers to operate around the clock, a move that should ease the backlog in consumer goods. They are more reminders that America must confront a global pandemic on a global front.

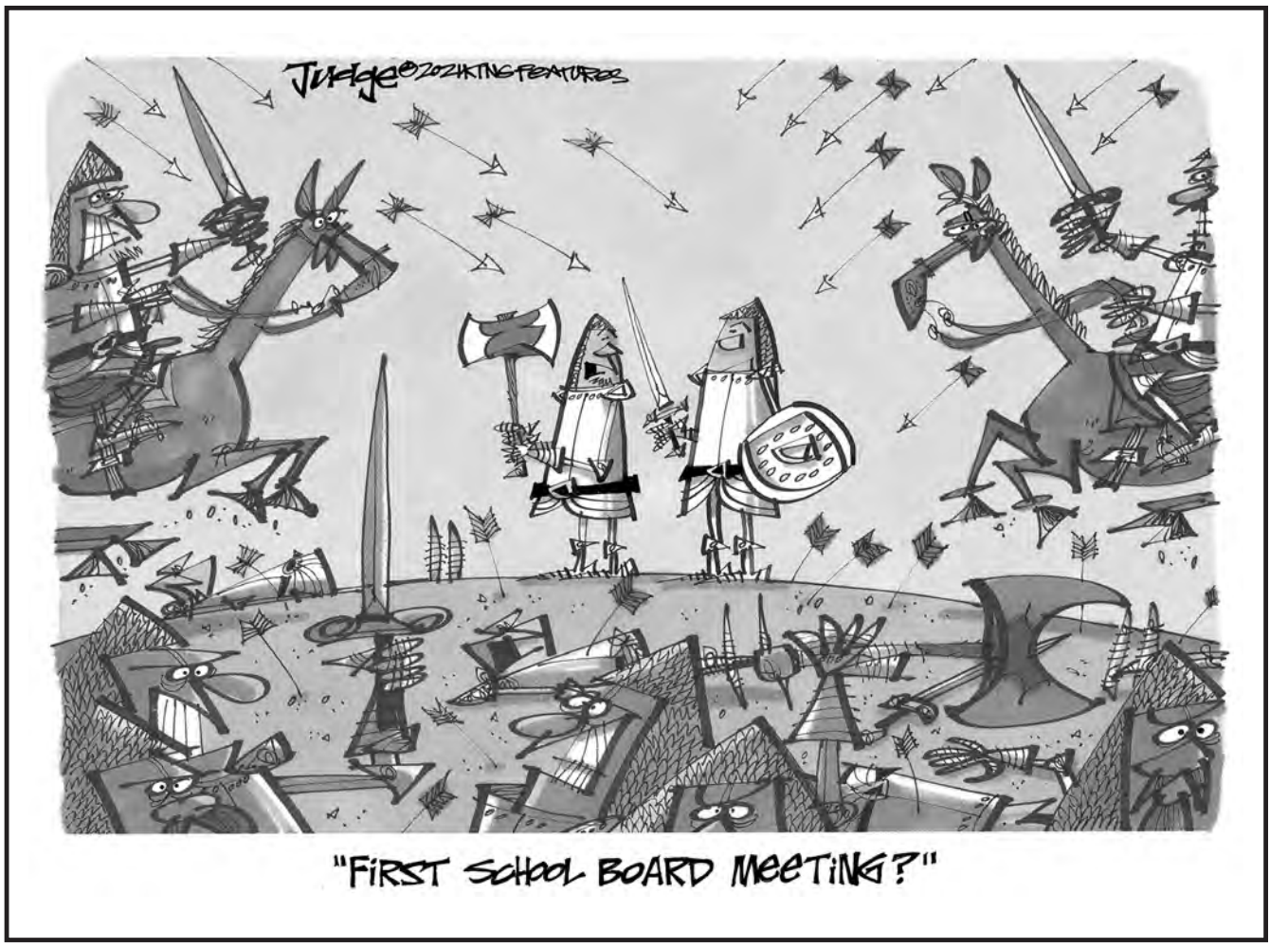
The U.S. will lift restrictions at its land borders with Canada and Mexico for fully vaccinated foreign nationals in early November, opening the border to non-essential travel for the first time since the pandemic exploded in March 2020. The closures have been devastating for many families and border communities, and reopening them is another step toward normalizing tourism and trade along these busy corridors.

The administration also moved to clear a logjam in the supply chain that's holding up the delivery of consumer goods. President Joe Biden announced that the Port of Los Angeles would begin operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, following a commitment the Port of Long Beach announced two weeks ago. These are among the largest ports in the world, and together, they account for 40 percent of the shipping containers that America imports into the country.

The extended hours will help speed the offloading of dozens of containers ships that are currently waiting to berth. Biden also announced Wednesday that the nation's largest retailer, Walmart, and other companies, including Target, Home Depot, FedEx and UPS, had agreed to vastly expand operations in off-peak hours, in what the president called a "step toward moving our entire freight transportation and logistical supply chain, nationwide, to a 24/7 system." That should help thousands of major retailers and smaller outlets as Americans clamor for everything from bicycles and toys to laptops and lawn chairs. The shortages have helped increase inflation, which jumped more than expected last month, and have also helped sap Biden's approval ratings.

The administration waited too long to act, but these moves will grease the economy and inject some much-needed confidence among Americans as the holiday season approaches. More locally, the same's true for the return of the cruise industry to Tampa Bay. After more than a year and a half, the industry sails again this weekend when the Royal Caribbean Serenade of the Seas departs Tampa for a five-night cruise to the Bahamas. Cruises normally bring in more than one-fifth of Port Tampa Bay's annual revenue. Their return marks the reemergence of a vital industry and

See COVID on Next Page



What Colin Powell taught me about war and optimism

By JAMES STAVRIDIS
Bloomberg Opinion

James Stavridis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a retired U.S. Navy admiral and former supreme allied commander of NATO, and dean emeritus of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He is also chair of the board of the Rockefeller Foundation and vice chairman of Global Affairs at the Carlyle Group. His latest book is 2034: A Novel of the Next World War.

In 2009, I was nominated to be the 16th supreme allied commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. While I had already served three years heading one of the military's 11 combatant commands—U.S. Southern Command, focused on Latin America—this new job would be jumping into the deep end of the pool.

For starters, I would be the first Navy admiral to take the job—all my predecessors had been generals with deep experience in NATO. (My dream four-star job was thousands of miles away: commander of U.S. Pacific Command in Honolulu, a traditional posting for a Navy officer.) But Secretary of Defense Robert Gates wanted me in Europe, so off I went.

The other problem was that NATO was engaged in a brutal land war in Afghanistan, with nearly 150,000 troops hundreds of miles from the sea. I was worried about my ability to lead given the complexities of that coalition. When I relayed my doubts to both Gates and Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, they both said, "Go talk to Colin."

I'd known Colin Powell, who died Monday of complication from COVID-19, since I was a young commander and he was the Joint Chiefs chairman. Gen. Powell—to those of us in uniform, he will always be Gen. Powell, not Secretary of State Powell—had always been generous with his time and advice as I moved through more senior positions. This included when I was senior military assistant to Secretary of Defense Don Rumsfeld in the early 2000s, a job Powell had held in the 1980s under Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

As I knocked on the door of his home in the Washington suburbs, I hoped he could boil down for me the key elements of leading a large coalition in combat, dealing with the diplomatic elements of NATO and the other allies, and handling the personal pressure and challenges. We spent a couple of hours together, and at the end of it, I walked away reassured and thinking more optimistically than I had since I'd learned of the assignment.

First, he said, you need to park your ego at the door. You'll be treated like royalty in the job: a stately Belgian chateau set on a couple of dozen acres; the biggest security detail in the armed forces (Belgian and U.S.); your personal set of Blackhawk helicopters; the best Gulfstream jet; a chef and staff to run the diplomatic entertainment; and on and on.

"Remember who you are, Stavridis," he said. "You're not being sent over there to be the 21st-century version of Charlemagne." Humility, so much at the core of Colin Powell, the son of Jamaican immigrants and graduate of a City College of New York, was job one.

Next, keep running the traps. (Military-speak for staying on top of everything.) Powell was famous for this in every job he ever had, constantly picking up the phone to take the temperature of senior military colleagues, civilian peers in other agencies, the Washington media, foreign counterparts, friends over the decades. His network was endless, and he paid for information and intuitions with his own ideas and advice, creating a mosaic of each challenge, filling in the little colored stones until the picture emerged. A good NATO commander, he told me, is an intelligence officer who gathers the needed information a bit at a time.

Third, to keep a coalition together, you must put yourself in the other guy's shoes. He said to stop and think about the history, culture, language and, above all, the demands that your counterparts are facing—in Paris, London, Berlin and Rome, of course, but also in the smaller capitals of countries like Slovakia, Slovenia, Estonia and Belgium. And the same goes for Moscow—get there fast and talk to the Russians about their experiences in Afghanistan.

Finally, stay optimistic. If you look at Powell's "13 Rules for Success," which I cut out and kept under the glass on my desk in Belgium, four of the 13 pertain to optimism: It will look better in the morning (#1); It can be done! (#4); Don't take counsel of your fears or naysayers (#12); Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier (#13).

Then he signed a couple of copies of his remarkable memoir, "My American Journey," and sent me on my way. Four lessons in two hours: humility, connectivity, empathy and optimism. A pretty good prescription, and so often over the next four years, and the decade since, whenever I've faced a challenge, I think of Colin Powell. Godspeed and open water to you, general.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What can I do to make the world a better place?

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is the delegate of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the U.S. Congress.

Greetings, people of the Northern Marianas,

What can I do to make the world a better place? The answer to that question can guide each of us as we make choices for a lifetime or a day: about the work we do, the way we live, how we interact with family, friends, and strangers. What can I do to make the world a better place?

Sometimes, of course, we stumble. At times, we succeed. And when we succeed, whether in a small way or large, in private or in public, that experience should help us decide the next time we have to answer the question: What can I do to make the world a better place?

Over the last decade I have been given the extraordinary opportunity to make the world better by serving you, the people of the Northern Marianas, in the U.S. Congress. Sometimes by helping in a small way a single individual. Sometimes in ways that change the course of life for thousands.

The opportunities to change for the better often align with the moral and religious values I learned from my parents and the Camacho and Kilili tradition, from the Mercedarian nuns and my Jesuit teachers in Chuuk, and from mentors like Mayor +Vicente D. Sablan, Bishop +Tomas A. Camacho, +Herman Q. Guerrero, Speaker +"Mitch" I. Pangelinan, former governor +Pedro P. Tenorio, +Peter Michael P. Tenorio, former governor Carlos S. Camacho, Juan S. Tenorio and Uncle Dave M. Sablan, among many others.

I have been able to feed the hungry. Heal the sick. Nourish our children with education. And help those our society treats as outcasts to lift themselves up and live with dignity. I do not mean I cooked the meals or gave medicine to the ill. I did not stand before a classroom and open minds to learning. But I was able to put resources in the hands of those who did that work by making sure the federal government treated the people of the Northern Marianas more equitably at last.

Now I must decide whether to offer to continue doing this work in the U.S. Congress.

Many in our community are saddened by the corruption they see in our Commonwealth government and want me to step in and work to make it better. For months Andrea and I have wrestled with this decision. I would love to be able to sleep at home in my own bed each night, to be here to share precious moments with my family and friends. I would be happy never to step on a plane for that grueling 36-hour trip to Washington and suffer the days of jetlag after; feel the loneliness of being far away from home.

Yes, my quality of life would certainly be better if I ran for governor. Win or lose I could then stay home!

But would I be doing all I could to make the world a better place? Would the investment the people of the Northern Marianas have made to help me learn how to represent them effectively, or the Northern Marianas seniority, in Congress be lost? Not forever, of course, because someday a new delegate will begin the long process of learning that I had to go through. But when that day comes the Northern Marianas standing in Congress will slip from leadership to the lower rungs.

And, if elected governor, how much better could I make our world? For the truth is our problem is more than one corrupt individual. We have allowed a culture of corruption to grow in our society, where many see what is happening, but too few are willing to say stop. Until more say *basta*, the corruption will continue, no matter who is governor.

So, today I am announcing my decision to run for delegate again. It is in Congress I can best serve to make the lives of the people of the Northern Marianas better. That is the work I will continue to do for you if you so choose on election day next year.

And I ask for your understanding and your support.

Why journalists are failing the public with 'both-siderism' in political coverage

By JACKIE CALMES
Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times *in Washington, D.C.*

American politics has changed dramatically since my post-Watergate generation of journalists began covering the story. Political journalism hasn't kept up.

For years it was easy to cover "both sides"—Republicans and Democrats—as equally worthy, and blameworthy, partners in democracy. While we reporters had come of age as witnesses to the unprecedented resignation of a Republican president who'd tried to corrupt the institutions of government to affect an election—imagine!—what remained was a Republican Party still capable of a creditable role in a healthy two-party system. After all, Richard M. Nixon was forced to resign when congressional leaders of his party began abandoning him. Again, imagine that, Kevin McCarthy.

Now, when reporters or pundits use the words "both sides" in regard to some political problem, I stop reading or listening.

I started to chafe at false equivalence a quarter-century ago, as a congressional reporter amid Newt Gingrich's Republican revolution. One party—his—was demonstrably more responsible for the nasty divisiveness, government gridlock and norm-busting, yet journalistic pressure to produce seemingly "balanced" stories—pressure both ingrained and imposed by editors—prevented reporters from sufficiently reflecting the new truth.

By 2012, as President Obama dealt with the willful obstructionists, conspiracists and racists of an increasingly radicalized Republican Party, political scientists and long-respected Washington watchers Thomas E. Mann and Norman J. Ornstein put the onus for the dysfunction squarely on the GOP in their provocative book "It's Even Worse Than It Looks." Significantly, they implicated journalists: "A balanced treatment of an unbalanced phenomenon is a distortion of reality and a disservice to your consumers."

The ascension of Donald Trump four years later should not have been such a surprise. With his continued hold on the Republican Party in the Biden era, Mann and Ornstein's admonition is truer than ever.

Yes, it's critical for political journalists to remain fair and balanced, in contrast with the right-wing network that cynically co-opted those adjectives. And, yes, variations on the word "lie" justifiably made it into the mainstream—something I never thought I'd see, let alone write—to describe what comes out of Trump's mouth whenever his lips move. Sadly, that was progress.

Yet, now that Trump is no longer president and his words no longer can fire senior officials, move troops or launch bombs, his unhinged utterances go largely uncovered, for better and worse. Better, for everyone's mental health. Worse, because he is the favorite to be Republicans' 2024 nominee and perhaps president again, and still commands his party—enabled by his sycophants in Congress, state capitals and thousands of local public offices. Attention must be paid.

To the extent, then, that journalists and pundits focus critically on President Biden and Democrats and give short shrift to Republicans' obstructions—as if the cancer of Trumpism was in remission, if not cured—that indeed distorts reality and disserves readers, listeners and viewers.

Democracy is literally at stake: As Republicans block federal voting rights legislation, those in red states continue to challenge the 2020 votes for Biden (but not their own), pass laws to suppress future votes in ways disadvantageous to Democrats, gerrymander legislative districts and replace nonpartisan election overseers with partisan ones.

In Congress, the Democrats' disarray, to use a favorite alliterative phrase of journalists, is real and merits dissection. But it must be said that it owes much to the fact that Democrats, with their minimal House and Senate majorities, can't count on a single Republican vote for most legislation, while one Republican senator can routinely block action with a filibuster.

Meanwhile, the scrapping between liberals such as Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and moderate Democratic holdouts Sens. Joe Manchin III of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona over potentially transformative domestic spending proposals reflects the normal debate process.

Numerous news reports suggest that Biden is politically liable for the persistence of COVID-19. Yet many are silent on Republicans' opposition to his efforts promoting vaccines and masks, and the not coincidental fact that the rates of hospitalizations and deaths are highest in red states. Trumpists on social media seem to gloat over high case numbers. "COVID is raging out of control," Trump himself said in an anti-Biden statement Wednesday. "Do you miss me yet?"

This is a Republican Party that is not serious about governing or addressing the nation's actual problems, as opposed to faux ones like critical race theory.

Health care costs, child care, climate change, income inequality, you name it—Republicans don't even acknowledge the problems, let alone propose solutions. Statewide candidates from Nevada to Virginia echo Trump in claiming that addressing (nonexistent) election fraud is, as he put it in another statement Wednesday, "the single most important thing for Republicans to do."

Republicans in Congress scandalously opposed a bipartisan commission to investigate the Jan. 6 insurrection, which threatened them as well as our democracy. They won't support a must-pass increase in the nation's debt limit, despite the trillions of debt that they and Trump piled up. Yet it was Sen. Charles E. Schumer of New York, the Democratic majority leader, who came in for pundits' rebuke last week when he lambasted Republicans for flirting with a default, just after they'd allowed a temporary debt-limit measure to pass. What was he supposed to do? Celebrate the Republicans' "bipartisanship" in defusing, only until December, the dynamite they'd lit under the economy?

Last Saturday, the Senate's most senior Republican, Sen. Charles E. Grassley, gleefully accepted Trump's endorsement for reelection at a rally in Iowa where Trump repeatedly lied that he'd beaten Biden. The next day on "Fox News Sunday," the second-ranking Republican in the House, Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana, repeatedly refused to say that the election was not stolen from Trump.

Democrats can't be expected to deal with these guys like they're on the level. Nor should journalists cover them as if they are.

COVID

From Page 8

an engine for a growing port.

Of course, there's only so much that opening the borders, working midnight hours, and resuming cruises can do to strengthen the global recovery. The pandemic has shut down manufacturing and closed transportation loops across the worldwide supply chain. And many countries that play a key role in producing consumer goods are still plagued by low vaccination rates. Returning the international order to normal will take time.

But opening the ports and borders is an essential step in managing the pandemic. And it shows America's self-interest in upping the fight against COVID-19 abroad.

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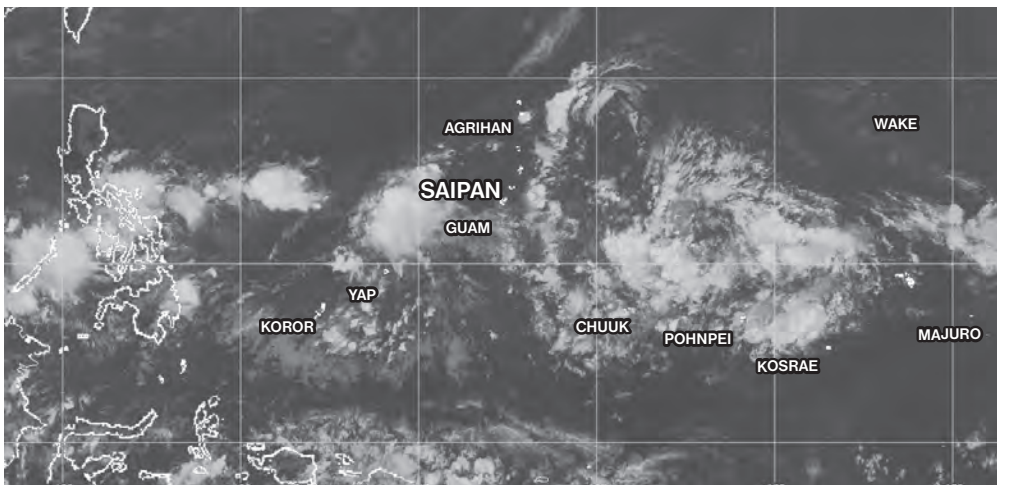
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph. Lows around 76. Highs around 87. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph. Lows around 76. Highs around 87. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s. Lows in the mid 70s. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s. Lows in the mid 70s. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s. Lows in the mid 70s. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.
87º / 76º	87º / 76º	80º / 70º	80º / 70º	80º / 70º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 10:58 AM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A breakdown in winds just east of the Marianas has caused the trough to stall. The Marianas forecast has been updated to include mostly sunny skies this morning along with a slight increase in the high temperature. Scattered showers are still possible this afternoon, both from the westward-moving trough, but also from island-effect showers which could develop prior to the trough.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	87 / 77 °F
Palau	Light Rain Shower	84 / 75 °F
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	86 / 77 °F
Chuuk	Cloudy	83 / 79 °F
Pohnpei	Cloudy	87 / 76 °F
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	89 / 79 °F
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	86 / 80 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:09 AM	5:53 PM
Friday	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Saturday	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Sunday	6:10 AM	5:51 PM
Monday	6:10 AM	5:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:24 PM	6:23 PM
Friday	-	7:13 PM	7:01 PM
Saturday	-	8:02 PM	7:41 PM
Sunday	-	8:53 PM	8:24 PM
Monday	-	9:44 PM	9:10 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	65 / 58 °F
Beijing	Fair	59 /37 °F
Hong Kong	Fair	83 / 77 °F
Honolulu	Fair	78 / 71 °F
London	Light Rain	61/ 46 °F
Los Angeles	Clear	58 / 52 °F
Manila	Fair	89 / 78 °F
Melbourne	Sunny	74 / 56 °F
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	79 / 77 °F
New York	Clear	62 / 58 °F
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	65 / 52 °F
Paris	Clear	69 / 53 °F
Busan	Fair	64 / 53 °F
Rome	Clear	72 / 55 °F
Salem	Clear	56 / 51 °F
San Francisco	Cloudy	60 / 57 °F
Seoul	Fair	58 / 38 °F
Tokyo	Sunny	72 / 52 °F
Washington, DC	Clear	59 / 54 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:06 AM	Low Tide	0.16
8:18 AM	High Tide	1.74
2:13 PM	Low Tide	0.70
7:42 PM	High Tide	1.78

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 5, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:45am	7:25am	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:45am	10:25am	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	9:10pm	4, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:00am	5:41am	1, 3, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:41am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:55am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:41am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	5:41am+1	7 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:41am+1	1, 3, 4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Island Snapshots

IMPROVED GROTTO CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Marianas Visitors Authority, in coordination with the CNMI administration and various private sponsors, officially reopened the newly improved Grotto and Grotto lookout to the public last Tuesday after over a year since its closure.

TOYS FOR TOTS NMS

AB Risk Solutions is an official 2021 "Toys for Tots" partner this holiday season. Community members who would like to donate toys to the "Toys for Tots" program can drop off their donation at AB Risk Solutions. The "Toys for Tots" program is a charitable initiative hosted by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve that provides toys to disadvantaged children during the Christmas holiday season. The program is spearheaded by the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. Businesses who would like to participate in this program and host a toy collection box can email saipantoys4tots@gmail.com.

GETTING READY FOR 2022 FERDIE DE LA TORRE

NMI Democratic Party chair Nola K. Hix and vice chair Daniel Quitugua announce the deadline to submit letters of intent to run as governor and delegate for next year's election at a press conference Tuesday at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Kili Café and Terrace. The party will announce their candidates for governor and delegate by Nov. 4, 2021.

JGO HEARING FERDIE DE LA TORRE

House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) announces the committee's decision Tuesday to allow Frances Dela Cruz, the governor's executive assistant, to submit her testimony through a sworn affidavit. Babauta said they are, however, not waiving any rights or powers that they have to compel the appearance and testimony of Dela Cruz or any witness.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairperson of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting was re-scheduled to Friday, October 22, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance. In compliance with the CNMI COVID-19 guidelines, Face-masks must be worn, social distancing will be enforced, and not more than ten (10) people will be allowed in the conference room during the course of the meeting.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

IV. OLD BUSINESS
   a. CDBG-DR Updates

V. NEW BUSINESS
   a. Amend Small Purchase Threshold and Bonding Requirements
   b. Amend Procurement Protest
   c. Conflict of Interest Form and Waiver
   d. REAC Inspection Results
   e. New Housing Programs
   f. LIHTC Request for additional credits Ladera Homes

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
   a. Personnel Matters

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board

Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670)433-9213
Fax: (670)433-3690

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670)532-9410
Fax: (670)532-9441

Set appointment to join JKPL's 3-day Halloween fun

The CNMI community is invited to join Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and community partners as we present Book-a-Treat by appointment only, a three-day indoor Halloween extravaganza at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Book-a-treat by appointment only event will be conducted on the following days:

- Friday, Oct. 29, 2021, from 2:30pm to 6:30pm
- Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 3pm
- Sunday, Oct. 31, 2021, from 1pm to 6pm

What is Book-A-Treat?

Book-A-Treat by appointment only is indoor trick or treating at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library following social distancing, safety, and health measures. Patrons contact the library and "book" one appointment per household. Upon entry to the JKPL, each household is then given up to 30 minutes to go trick or treating in the library and visit the Haunted Library. Book-a-Treat is approved by the Governor's Covid-19 Task Force.

2021 Book-a-Treat coordinator and systems librarian Omar T. Manacop said: "Book- a-Treat is a three-day free Halloween extravaganza in which families can spend some quality time trick or treating inside the library. Book-a-Treat is great way for our community to connect with our community partners as they showcase their services. Team JKPL and community partners are excited to provide this innovative way especially during the COVID-19 pandemic to explore, appreciate, and learn about the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library from our vast collection of free books and library materials we have to offer to the community to the spectacular gems we have available such as the community sea aquarium, community garden, Information Technology Center, Bookmobile Outreach Services, Pacific Collection, Children of Our Homeland Center, and so much more! Contact 235-7322 or 7315 to book your appointment go indoor trick or treating at the library today!"

Community partners who are interested in participating and/or sponsoring Book-a-Treat are invited to contact the library at 235-7322/7315 and ask for Manacop. ***(PR)***

'Mini Haunted House' on Oct. 29 at Kagman Community Center

» After-school program at KCC ongoing

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Youth Services will be holding what it calls a "Mini Haunted House" at the Kagman Community Center on Oct. 29 from 5pm to 7:30pm. The event will have free admission and is open to the community.

Jennifer Tanaka, supervisor of the Family and Youth Enhancement Program at the Division of Youth Services, said Friday the Halloween festivities at the community center this year are largely made possible by DYS' youth volunteers. Last Friday, several teams of youth worked on decorations and set pieces for the Oct. 29 "mini haunted house."

There will be events inside and outside the community center on Oct. 29, Tanaka added. The "mini haunted house" itself will be set up at the center's auditorium and will feature multiple Halloween-themed stations. Outside the center, DYS will have a photo booth, and DYS' partnering agencies will have tables where they will have games, give out candies, and provide information on services and offerings available through their agency.

In line with current COVID-19 safety protocols, Tanaka said there will be a registration station for temperature checks and logging contact information. After registering, all guests will receive wristbands and be granted access to the "mini haunted house."

Tanaka also said Friday that DYS has an after-school program at the center. The program, which is part of DYS' Family & Youth Enhancement Program, caters to two age groups: children aged 5-12 and teens aged 13-17. According to Tanaka, around 45 children aged 5-12 and around 25 teens aged 13-17 are currently participating in the after-school program.

For the younger age group, Tanaka said the group was treated this month to guest presentations hosted by the Carolinian Affairs Office where they received introductory lessons in Carolinian and Chamorro and were taught how to make trinkets out of beads. Tanaka said a generous couple also recently donated a piano to the community center and that the younger group is also being treated to singing and piano lessons. With Christmastime nearing, the children have been practicing Christmas songs, said Tanaka.

The older age group is currently in its fourth week of taking an evidence-based program called Aggression Replacement Training. Tanaka said the group meets three times a week for 10 weeks at the center and that the current sessions are set to end the week of Thanksgiving.

ART is an evidence-based, 10-week program for individuals aged 13 to 21 that introduces participants to healthy ways of managing anger, and is one of many programs offered at the community center through DYS' Family & Youth Enhancement Program.

For both after-school program age groups, Tanaka said that finishing homework first is a priority, and has become routine for the program participants. If they have homework, the program participants will finish their work at the center's resource room. When finished, they join in on the day's activities.

Those interested in registering their children for DYS' after-school program can find registration forms online at dys.gov.mp or at the Kagman Community Center. These forms can be submitted to the community center in person, or by email to rlisua@dys.gov.mp or aolopai@dys.gov.mp.

Those wishing to learn more about the Oct. 29 event and/or about DYS services at the community center can call 670-237-1015/16/17/18/19 or visit the center from Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm except on holidays.

JOSHUA SANTOS

SPECIAL ELECTION

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla S. Igitol, rightmost, checks in on the CEC board last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The CEC last Saturday tabulated and certified the results of a special election to fill a Precinct 3 House seat that was vacated following the sudden passing of Rep. Ivan Alafanso Blanco (R-Saipan). Vying for the house seat was Corina L. Magofna of the NMI Democratic Party and Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae of the NMI Republican Party. Magofna won 1,217-808.

DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF BENZENE

Bayer voluntarily recalls specific Lotrimin and Tinactin spray products

The Department of Public Health and Social Services in Guam, in coordination with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, would like to inform the public of a voluntary recall by Bayer of specific Lotrimin and Tinactin spray products due to the presence of benzene.

Bayer is voluntarily recalling all unexpired Lotrimin AF and Tinactin spray products with lot numbers beginning with TN, CV or NAA, distributed between September 2018 to September 2021, due to the presence of benzene in some samples of the products. Benzene is not an ingredient in any of Bayer Consumer Health products. It is important to note that Bayer's decision to voluntarily recall these products is a precautionary measure and that the levels detected are not expected to cause adverse health consequences in consumers.

As per the USFDA, benzene is classified as a human carcinogen. Exposure to benzene can occur by inhalation, orally, and through the skin. Depending on duration and level of exposure, it can result in cancers including leukemia, and blood cancer of the bone marrow and blood disorders which can be life-threatening. Benzene is found in the environment from natural sources and human activity. Humans around the world are exposed to the substance from multiple sources and pathways, including inhalation, through the skin, and orally. To date, Bayer has no known reports of adverse events related to this recall.

The affected Lotrimin and Tinactin spray products are over the counter antifungal products, sold individually or in combo-packs, packaged in aerosol spray cans. The impacted products are:

- Lotrimin Anti-Fungal (AF) Athlete's Foot Powder Spray
- Lotrimin Anti-Fungal Jock Itch (AFJI) Athlete's Foot Powder Spray
- Lotrimin Anti-Fungal (AF) Athlete's Foot Deodorant Powder Spray
- Lotrimin AF Athlete's Foot Liquid Spray
- Lotrimin AF Athlete's Foot Daily Prevention Deodorant Powder Spray
- Tinactin Jock Itch (J1) Powder Spray
- Tinactin Athlete's Foot Deodorant Powder Spray • Tinactin Athlete's Foot Powder Spray
- Tinactin Athlete's Foot Liquid Spray

There are no issues of concern with Lotrimin/Tinactin creams, including Lotrimin Ultra, or any other Bayer products.

The Division of Environmental Health of DPHSS was notified by two retailers (Guam Rexall Drugs, located in Tamuning, and Super Happy Mart, located in Barrigada), that they had the affected products on hand. Guam Rexall Drugs removed 51 of the affected products, while Super Happy Mart removed one affected product from store shelves.

To date, DEH has determined that the affected Lotrimin AF and Tinactin aerosol spray cans were sold at the aforementioned retailers:

Product Name	Lot	Expiration	Retailer
Lotrimin AF JI Spray Powder 133g 36 pk	TN007TG	2023-03-31	Guam Rexall Drugs
Lotrimin Liquid Spray 133g (4.6oz)	TN006MC	2023-01-31	Guam Rexall Drugs
Lotrimin AF Powder Spray 133g 36pk	TN006MJ	2022-09-30	Guam Rexall Drugs
Lotrimin AF Deo Powder Spray 133g 36 pc	TN006MZ	2023-02-28	Guam Rexall Drugs
Lotrimin AF Powder Spray 133g (3 Pack)	TN005P4	2022-08-31	Guam Rexall Drugs
Tinactin JI Spray 133g	TN005RW	2023-05-31	Guam Rexall Drugs
Tinactin AF Powder Spray 133g	TN006AT	2022-12-31	Guam Rexall Drugs
Tinactin AF Powder Spray 133g	TN006TA	2023-02-28	Guam Rexall Drugs
Tinactin AF Powder Spray	CV01AE7	2022-02-28	Super Happy Mart

DEH continues to conduct its recall effectiveness check activities and will continue to update the public as more information is obtained.

The Department has not received any local report of injuries or illnesses associated with the use of these recalled commodities. Anyone concerned about a reaction should contact their healthcare provider. Consumers who have purchased the items listed above are urged not to use the affected products. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Halloween Trunk or Treat at Toyota showroom

Atkins Kroll is thrilled to host a Halloween Trunk or Treat on Saturday, Oct. 30, from 6pm to 8pm in the Toyota showroom. All are welcome for some Halloween fun. Children are encouraged to dress in their favorite costumes and soak in the spookiest time of year.

"This is the second year we will host a Halloween Trunk or Treat," said AK vice president and general manager Joel Lesh. "We are very humbled to have the opportunity to offer a safe and fun Halloween event to the community and we hope everyone will take part in all the fun."

Children will be treated to candy, miniature race cars, and spooky tattoos while supplies last. A photo booth will be on site to capture the fun.

Stay up to date with event information by visiting www.aksaipan.com. Traffic should be anticipated, and all motorists are advised to travel with caution. ***(PR)***

4.9-magnitude quake in Marianas region

At 1:28pm on Oct. 20 2021, a report of a 4.9-magnitude earthquake occurred at 21.849°N 144.435°E in the Mariana Islands region. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings, or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

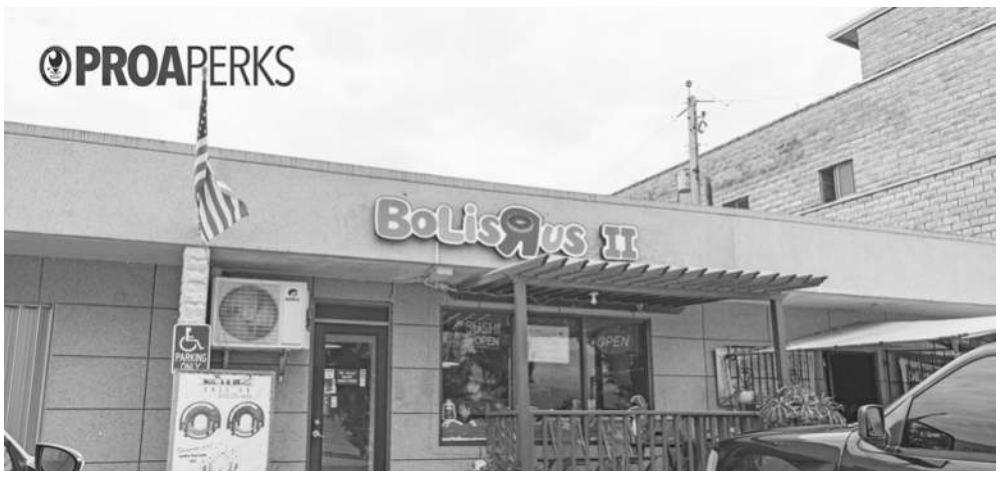
Ukulele classes at JKPL

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library registration for ukulele class is ongoing. The minimum age requirement is open to children ages 8 years or older and adults. The total cost for 8 class sessions is $70. Ukulele classes are held at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in partnership with ukulele instructor Larry Lee. Session is set to begin on Oct. 27, 2021, ukulele class is every Wednesday at 4pm–5pm.

The JKPL ukulele class is based on "First come; first paid" basis. Students must provide their own ukuleles and a folder to hold music sheets (plastic sheet protectors and a 3-ring binder are recommended). Parents/Guardians must sign a Liability Waiver Form on behalf of their participating children and must adhere to public library policies and procedures.

For questions regarding ukulele class, call Celina Foreman or Caitlyn Crisostomo at 235-7315/7322 during regular library hours. Class dates are subject to change, unless otherwise specified. ***(PR)***

Bolis R Us 2 is latest ProaPerks Partner



NMC

Bolis R Us 2 is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. More information about their special promotion for ProaPerks card holders can be found at marianas.edu/proaperks.

Bolis R Us 2 is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now purchase a one choice lunch for just $4. Additionally, ProaPerks members who purchase four empanadas can receive an additional empanada for free.

Other ProaPerks partners are 153 Restaurant, 360 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, AllStar Sporting Goods, Aqua Connections, Inc., Athlete's Foot, Avis Rent A Car, BAB Korean Restaurant Cup Bab, Chagi Norf Kitchen, Boarderline, Candle J, Caravan of Food, Casa Decor, Casa Urashima, Chelu Alynez Enterprise, Chungi Wa Korean Restaurant, Coral Garden Hotel, Cosmos Lounge, D' Chef's Kitchen, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days, Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Fork and Spoon, Garapan Restaurant Cafe & Grill, Gold's Gym, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Great Harvest, Boyer Trading Company LLC. dba Ginen Saipan, Ha'ani Company, Healing Stones Spa, Highway Express Auto Care Center, Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc./Tan Marikita's Cafe, Hertz Rental Car, Hyatt, Ice Island Coffee & Ice Deserts, Hotel Americano, Ina's Kitchen, Isla Shave Ice, International Roller Skates, Java Joe's, JC Cafe, Jhen's Sweet Corner Cakes, Judy's Cafe & Restaurant, Junlyn Salon, Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell, Kiki's, Latte Build Gym, Lohas Massage, Lohas Nails, Lucky Store, Lucky II Mart, Magbers Snack Bar, Majesty Restaurant, Mama D's Cafe, Mariana Lighthouse, Marianas Creation, MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC, Megabyte, Mermaid Restaurant & Milk tea, Micafe Snack Corner, Nam Dae Moon, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, Neni Girl Nails, NMC Bookstore, Ocean Candy, Ocean Star Restaurant, Pacific Home Appliances, Paradise Dental Spa, Pena House Boutique, Pizzeria Bar & Grill, Pokiyaki, Saipan Computer Services, Shirley's Cafe, Salty's, Summer Snow Cafe & Kids Corner cafe, Summit Auto Repair Shop, Surf Club, Residence Lodge, The Ohala Foundation Clothing, The Pacific Supply, The Shack, Time Creation Corp., Tinian Diamond Hotel, Tom Yum Restaurant, Tribe Marianas, and Triple J Motors.

NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

CUC ADVISORIES

Water service interruptions today

There will be an emergency water service interruption today, October 21, 2021, from 8:30am to 3:30pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the areas of As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao and Tanapag.

The emergency water service interruption is due to the isolation of a 4-inch waterline for the CUC water operators to perform an emergency leak repair on Chalan Pale Arnold near the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque. Water services to the affected areas should resume soon after.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite motorists are advised to proceed with caution when travelling through the job site as the northbound outer lane will be closed for the duration of the leak repair.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(PR)***

Scheduled power interruptions on Oct. 22, 23

There will be scheduled power service interruptions on Oct. 22 and 23, 2021.

FRIDAY, OCT. 22, 2021

■ Momentary Outage Time: 9:00am — 9:30am and 3:00pm — 3:30pm

■ Purpose: To replace one (1) rotted wooden primary power pole to concrete pole, to re-sag overhead primary conductors and to install three transformers in the Garapan area.

■ Area(s) Affected: Customers along Kalachuchi Avenue in Garapan

■ Circuit: Feeder 1

■ Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

FRIDAY, OCT. 22, 2021

■ Outage Time: 9:00am — 3:00pm

■ Area(s) Affected: Customers along Bukiki Avenue in Garapan

■ Purpose: To replace one rotted wooden primary power pole to concrete pole, to re-sag overhead primary conductors and to install three transformers in the Garapan area.

■ Circuit: Feeder 1

■ Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facility Affec ted: None

SATURDAY, OCT. 23, 2021

■ Outage Time: 9am–10am

■ Purpose: To install a temporary cut-out in the overhead primary lines across the former Esco's Store.

■ Areas Affected: Customers along Capital Hill to Mt. Tapochau, Wireless Ridge, Talafofo, Kagman and Papago

■ Circuit: Feeder 4

■ Water Well(s) Affected: The areas of Capital Hill, Kagman, Papago, San Vicente, Upper Dandan and Obyan may be affected based on the tank level during the power outage period.

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

(RE-ANNOUNCEMENT)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 015

Opening Date: 10/21/2021
Closing Date: 11/03/2021

POSITION TITLE:	Human Resources Technician
DEPARTMENT:	COA/Human Resources
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	$20,826.00 - $28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") is seeking for a qualified Human Resources Technician. Under the direct supervision of the Human Resources Manager or his/her designee the responsibilities will be as follows:

Duties:

- Provides administrative and technical support tasks for daily Human Resource operational functions; provides administrative assistance with benefits, training, payroll and recruiting activities, information tracking and documentation.
- Receives processes and verifies forms and completion of required information; enters and maintains Human Resource information systems data, files and records; maintains confidential personnel files and records.
- Assists employees and the public by providing information related to HR processes and procedures; retrieves and reviews data and resources to provide response to inquiries; or, refer inquiries or requests to appropriate resource.
- Performs research and verifies information; performs calculations; processes timekeeping information; compiles and maintains data for audit purposes. ☒ May process job vacancy announcements and assist in employment interview.
- Prepares forms and reports; drafts correspondence and templates; assists with gathering, documenting and maintaining information for programs, projects, training, recruitment, benefits or other areas. ☒ Assists management with special projects, information tracking and reporting.
- Monitors supply needs and prepare requests for replacement or acquisition; monitors equipment maintenance requirements and schedules services as required. ☒ Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Successful candidates for the position must have the following:

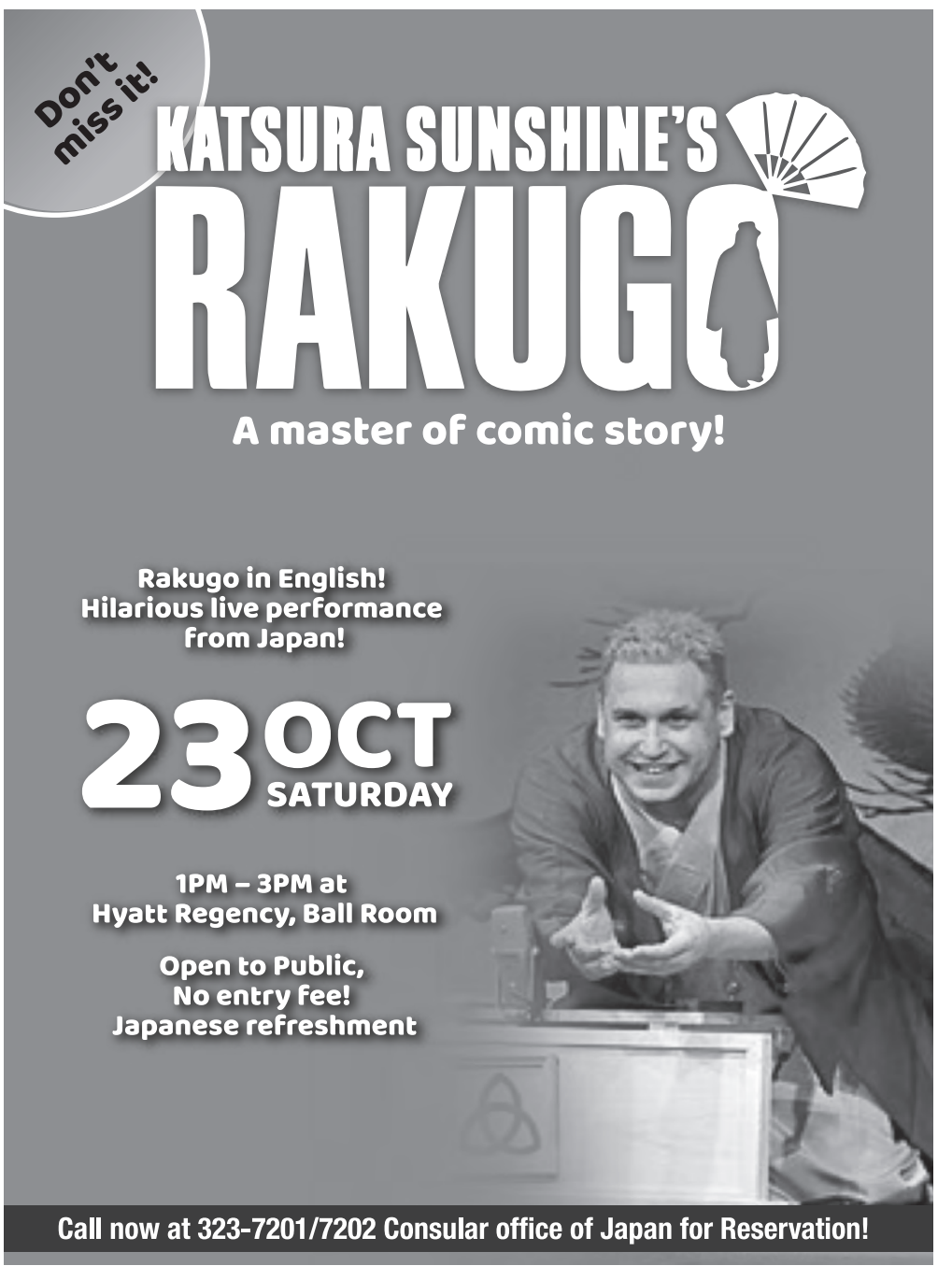
Education:
High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and 2 years of human resource or legal office experience.; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Human Resource principles and practices; Program administration principles; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Research methods; Database and records management principles; Modern office technology. **Skill In:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Administering and monitoring programs, policies and processes; Coordinating the implementation of human resource services; Researching and analyzing program-related data and resource information; Providing customer service; Interpreting policies and providing relevant information and guidance; Prioritizing work in order to meet time-sensitive program deadlines; Tracking and auditing data, forms, records and documentation; Preparing reports, correspondence, and program support materials; Updating and maintaining information systems and confidential records; Coordinating and assisting with projects; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:
o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
Physical Demands:
o Occasional lifting of objects, Subject to standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



Environment

BUSINESSES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Beach and underwater cleanups with FishGuyz

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Embraced by crystal clear blue waters that serve as home to invaluable marine biodiversity, people who call the CNMI home have been tirelessly working through many, many years to keep the Northern Mariana Islands pristine.

Yes, we benefit from the ocean—food sustenance and leisure-wise—but there is more to it with marine tourism.

The ocean economy covers about half of the CNMI's total employment, employs up to 8,300 people yearly, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. A 2019 study of the Eastern Research Group also valuated the ecosystem services from coral reef and seagrass habitats in the CNMI alone at $114.8 million annually.

Luckily, for the CNMI, there are marine-related businesses that get out of their way to help protect the ocean. FishGuyz Scuba & Charter is one of them.

FishGuyz is one of the most loved dive shops on the island, started in 2015 by PADI Master Scuba Diver trainer and U.S. Coast Guard captain Sydney Takahashi.

After working for more than two decades for and with other dive shops, Takahashi ventured out and established his own dive company that now boast of having a solid reputation for safety, stewardship, and fun. He is joined in this venture by his wife, HyunJae Lee; with Jesse Takahashi as their creative developer, Lisa Phair as manager, along with their multiple staff that include dive masters and boat captains.

FishGuyz had a beach cleanup activity on Tinian early this month, one of many that they do every year. Saipan Tribune was fortunate to go deep with Phair to talk about the dive company's initiatives to conserve and protect the ocean.

Tinian Beach cleanup last Oct. 10 in Unai Masalok.

PHOTO BY FISHGUYZ SCUBA & CHARTER

Cleanups as company culture

"Beach and underwater cleanups are part of our company culture," Phair said. "When you're in the water as much as Syd and the boys are, you grow a deep respect and appreciation for the ocean and the abundant marine life."

"It's more than just a way of life—it's something so ingrained that it's part of who they are. It's recognition that we all play a role in this and a desire to shoulder responsibility. These aren't people that will leave their trash at the beach after a party. There would be so much shame in doing so because of what the ocean and the beaches provide."

"This respect and responsibility grew well before Fishguyz was born as a business," Phair added.

Last Oct.10, the FishGuyz group went to Unai Masalok on Tinian for a beach cleanup. Phair said they keep the Tinian cleanups within their group given limited boat space. But ordinarily, for their Saipan beach cleanups, anyone willing can volunteer—and they provide free tank rentals, along with a post-cleanup barbecue.

Phair said their largest haul was from Tinian, on Long Beach last May, when they collected 56 fifty-gallon bags weighing in at 1,942 lbs total. The trash they collected? Typical flotsam such as discarded buoys, ropes, bottles, shoes, crates, caps, and an abundance of other plastics, large and small.

The most common items they collected were bottle caps and plastic bottles.

PHOTO BY FISHGUYZ SCUBA & CHARTER

FishGuyz crew haul some of the bags of trash they picked up from their beach cleanup on Tinian Long Beach in May 2021.They collected 56 fifty-gallon bags of trash, weighing 1,942 lbs total.

Get into the habit: Pick up trash

Solid waste has long been a hot topic in the CNMI, more so lately, with the government pushing for a Universal Trash Collection system. Cleanups are being held all over the island by volunteer groups, and organizations like the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, Friends of the Mariana Trench, and Tasi to Table have environmental education campaigns all geared toward ocean protection.

But we can all help and it could just be as simple as picking up trash, like what the FishGuyz crew are doing.

"[To] all who are so lucky to call the CNMI their home, and to those that visit our islands…behave like the wildlife and don't leave anything behind. And of course, leave every place nicer than when you arrived," she said.

On one of her very first boat dives in the CNMI about eight years ago, Phair said they were cruising along after a dive when they suddenly slowed, and when she looked to see what was going on, it was Takahashi veering the boat to the left—to pick up a plastic bag.

"There was a plastic bag floating at the surface and he swung over to get it. Not to show off, not to lecture, just a regular normal habit of picking up trash from our ocean," she said. "Similarly, there's another diver in our group that never goes on a dive without a mesh bag and he always brings it back up at the end of the dive full of trash he's picked up along the way."

"What these examples have shown me time and time again is how easy it is to pick up trash as part of a regular habit. I think the message here is that you don't need to organize or even join a beach or underwater cleanup to make a significant difference—you just need to pick stuff up as you go along."

"Can you imagine if everyone did that?"

For more information, or to book a scuba diving class/adventure, contact FishGuyz Scuba & Charter via (670) 989-7703, or visit their website at https://www.fishguyzscuba.com.

COMMONWEALTH LAW REVISION COMMISSION
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY
House of Justice | Guma Hustisia | Iimwal Aweewe
P.O. Box 502179, Saipan, MP 96950-2179 | Tel: (670) 236-9820 | Fax: (670) 236-9897
https://www.cnmilaw.org | cnmilaw@nmijudiciary.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary – Law Revision Commission is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

PUBLICATIONS CLERK / ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Announcement #JVA22-003
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position works under the general supervision of Executive Director of Law Revision Commission. The employee in this position is required to perform the following duties and responsibilities.

- Performs a full range of secretarial and administrative support duties for the Executive Director;
- Receives visitors and callers and responds to inquiries and/or directs them to the appropriate authority;
- Performs duties of a highly confidential nature;
- Assists Office Manager in maintaining inventories of supplies, equipment, and publications;
- Creates and maintains various ledgers, spreadsheets, record compilations, and reports related to expenditures, sales, and fund balances;
- Participates in the collection and compilation of fiscal data and assists in maintaining budgetary accounts and financial records for the office;
- Transcribes meeting minutes from written notes and/or audio recordings;
- Coordinates and assists the Executive Director with special projects;
- Adheres to and complies with all promulgated policies, standards, and codes of ethical conduct;
- Assists with the compilation, formatting and printing of electronic files of statutes, judicial decisions, and regulations for publication in print and electronic media by providing administrative support;
- Responds to orders of Commission publications at the office and by packaging, mailing and delivering publications to subscribers, maintaining up-to-date subscribers' list, keeping inventory of publications in stock and maintaining documents re: publications sold;
- Contacts purchasers and potential purchasers regarding LRC products and services;
- Scans, cleans, and converts documents to create searchable PDF files;
- Prepares monthly and annual sales reports and transmits cash and check sales to the Judiciary Cashier, enters credit card sales and other transactions into Accounting System;
- Prepares timesheets;
- Drafts correspondence and other documents when requested;
- Opens office at 8 a.m. on a daily basis, closes office for lunch from 12:00 p.m., opens office at 1:00 p.m. after lunch, and closes office at 5:00 p.m.; time and attendance are critical;
- Maintains office in an organized and presentable manner;
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The Publications Clerk should possess an Associate's Degree, a high school diploma, or equivalent plus a minimum of one (1) year work experience in office clerical work.

The Publications Clerk must:
- possess basic computer, word processing, and secretarial skills;
- exhibit a professional attitude, attention to detail, and basic organizational skills;
- have good oral and written communication skills;
- be extremely punctual and have impeccable attendance; and,
- be able to work equally well in collaboration with others and independently.
- possess a valid CNMI driver's license and be able to operate CNMI government vehicles.

Preferred: Legal secretary, website operation, accounting, and/or publication office experience is preferred. College credits and/or business trade school is preferred.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment. "Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules I-V of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308.)

Education completed in foreign colleges or universities may be used to meet the job qualification requirements if the applicant can show that foreign education is comparable to education received in accredited educational institutions in the United States.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide such evidence when applying for Judiciary jobs. Education received in foreign colleges or universities will be considered if the candidate submits an evaluation of the coursework from: (a) an accredited U.S. college or university; or (b) a private professional organization specializing in interpretation of foreign educational credentials.

COMPENSATION: This is an ungraded position. The salary range will be $20,000.00 - $23,100.00 per annum.

INTERESTED PERSONS PERSONS Application forms are available at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on weekends and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

NMI Judiciary
Human Resources
Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9818
Cell. (670) 783-8592
Fax. (670) 236-9702
hr.judiciary@NMIjudiciary.com

This job announcement will remain open until filled can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.nmijudiciary.com

The Judiciary reserves the right to rescind or cancel this JVA at any time without notice.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

[1] The following organizations evaluate foreign educational credentials for employment and other purposes. All operate on a fee based on the extent of the education to be evaluated; applicants shall bear the cost of evaluation.
(a) Credentials Evaluation Service P.O. Box 24679 Los Angeles, CA 90024
(b) Education Equivalency Evaluation World Education Services P.O. Box 745 Old Chelsea Station New York, NY 10011
(c) Education Credential Evaluators, Inc. P.O. Box 17499 Milwaukee, WI 53217
(d) International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. 914 Pickett Lane Newark, DE 19711
(e) Foundation for International Services, Inc. P.O. Box 230278 Portland, OR 97223.
While the Judiciary offer these addresses as information to applicants who request assistance in obtaining an evaluation of foreign education, these services are not preferred over others which may exist.

Life & Style

France returns marble angels stolen from Italy church in '89

ROME (AP)—A British art collector who bought a pair of 17th-century marble angels from a Neapolitan antiques shop two decades ago has returned the winged "putti" to Italy's art police after learning that they had been stolen from a church.

Italy's carabinieri art police said the unnamed collector had tried to resell the angels at an antiques shop in Avignon, France, before his planned move from France to Portugal when French art police flagged them as possible stolen goods.

Italy's art police said Tuesday that the angels, decorated with strategically placed vine of leaves and fruit, had been stolen from the St. Sebastian church in Guardia Sanframondi, northeast of Naples, on Dec. 13, 1989. Police said the collector was ignorant of the angels' origin and offered to return them without any legal fight.

They were formally handed over Tuesday to Italy at a ceremony at the French Embassy.

In a statement, the carabinieri noted that churches in the area had been subjected to numerous thefts after the 1980 Irpinia earthquake leveled huge swaths of southern Italy.

The police noted that another set of angels, similarly reported as stolen in the carabineri's database, was recently returned to another Guardia Sanframondi church after they were located in a Milan antiques shop and recognized by the church pastor.

Puppet Little Amal arrives in UK after journey across Europe

LONDON (AP)—A giant puppet of a Syrian refugee child created to symbolize millions of displaced children landed Tuesday on the coast of southeast England on the last leg of a 5,000-mile (8,000-kilometer) journey across Europe from the border of Syria.

The 11.5-foot (3.5-meter) puppet named Little Amal—a name meaning "hope" in Arabic—was greeted by actor Jude Law on the Folkestone seafront.

The puppet, operated by three people, has travelled through much of Europe after setting off from the Turkish-Syrian border in July and has been greeted by thousands of people along the way, including Pope Francis in Rome.

"Little Amal is 3.5 metres tall because we want the world to grow big enough to greet her," said Amir Nizar Zuabi, artistic director of project. "We want her to inspire us to think big and to act bigger."

Little Amal was created by Handspring, the company that made the equine puppets for hit West End and Broadway theater show "War Horse." The puppet was designed as part of The Walk, a traveling festival of art and hope to raise awareness of the problems faced by young migrants.

The idea of Little Amal's journey in search of her brother evolved from "The Jungle," a play about migration and displacement produced by Good Chance Theatre, set in a camp in northern France where migrants gather hoping to reach Britain.

Migrants from around the world have long used northern France as a launching point to reach Britain, either by stowing away in trucks or in dinghies and small boats organized by smugglers. About 20,000 people have crossed the Channel to England by boat so far this year.

Little Amal's journey will continue to Dover, London and Coventry in England before ending in Manchester, northwest England, on Nov. 3.

In London, Little Amal will celebrate her 10th birthday at the V&A Museum on Sunday alongside children from across the British capital who have been invited to join in musical performances and workshops.

The 25-person puppet entourage will travel to other attractions in London including the National Theatre, Somerset House and Trafalgar Square and will also walk the streets of Oxford alongside a giant puppet of Alice in Wonderland.

Thanks but no: UK queen turns down 'Oldie of the Year' title

LONDON (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II is Britain's longest-lived and longest-reigning monarch. But don't call her an oldie.

The 95-year-old queen has politely declined the honor of being named "Oldie of the Year" by a British magazine, saying she does not meet "the relevant criteria."

The Oldie magazine on Tuesday published the queen's response to its suggestion that she follow in the footsteps of former recipients, including former Prime Minister John Major, actor Olivia de Havilland and artist David Hockney.

"Her Majesty believes you are as old as you feel, as such The Queen does not believe she meets the relevant criteria to be able to accept, and hopes you will find a more worthy recipient," said a letter from her assistant private secretary, Tom Laing-Baker. He ended the letter "with Her Majesty's warmest best wishes."

Elizabeth II

The queen, who was widowed this year, still keeps a busy schedule of royal duties. On Tuesday she held audiences with diplomats and hosted a reception at Windsor Castle for global business leaders.

The Oldie of the Year prize honors people of advanced age who have made a special contribution to public life. The queen's husband Prince Philip, who died in April, received the accolade in 2011, when he was 90.

After the queen declined, this year's Oldie of the Year award went to movie royalty instead: French-American actress and dancer Leslie Caron, 90.

CNN's John King says he has MS, grateful for vaccinations

NEW YORK (AP)—CNN's John King revealed during an on-air discussion of COVID-19 vaccine mandates on Tuesday that he has multiple sclerosis.

King

"I'm going to share a secret I've never spoken before," King said while leading a panel discussion on his "Inside Politics" show. "I'm immunocompromised. I have multiple sclerosis. So, I'm grateful you're all vaccinated."

King and his guests were talking about mandates in the context of the death of former Secretary of State Colin Powell, who died Monday of COVID complications despite being vaccinated because he had cancer that compromised his immune system.

CNN mandates that all of its employees who come to work in an office or are out in the field with other people be vaccinated, and fired three employees this summer when they came to work unvaccinated.

King, 58, said his 10-year-old son can't be vaccinated yet, and he's concerned about bringing the virus home to him.

"I don't like the government telling me what to do," King said. "I don't like my boss telling me what to do. In this case, it's important."

Fox News' Cavuto tests positive for COVID-19, urges vaccines

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fox News Channel anchor Neil Cavuto tested positive for COVID-19, which he said was surprising but made him grateful that he was vaccinated.

Cavuto, who learned of the test results after Monday's episode of "Your World with Neil Cavuto," wasn't on the air Tuesday.

Cavuto

"While I'm somewhat stunned by this news, doctors tell me I'm lucky as well. Had I not been vaccinated, and with all my medical issues, this would be a far more dire situation," Cavuto said in a statement released by Fox News.

"It's not, because I did and I'm surviving this because I did. I hope anyone and everyone gets that message loud and clear. Get vaccinated, for yourself and everyone around you," the journalist said.

Cavuto, who had open-heart surgery in 2016 and was treated for cancer in the 1980s, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1997.

Also Tuesday, CNN's John King revealed on his "Inside Politics" show that he has multiple sclerosis, which makes him immunocompromised. "So, I'm grateful you're all vaccinated," he said during a panel discussion.

Discovery of ring complicates imminent engagement

DEAR ABBY: Over the weekend, while I was cleaning and reorganizing our bedroom, I found the engagement ring my boyfriend plans on proposing to me with. I didn't know he was planning to ask the big question, and I'm thrilled that he is going to. I haven't even hinted that I know anything is going on because I don't want to ruin the surprise more than I already have.

My problem is, I hate the ring he chose. It's beautiful, but, Abby, it's so big. I like dainty jewelry, and it is the complete opposite of anything I would ever choose for myself. What do I do? I love this man with my whole heart. He's my best friend, and we have been there for each other through the lowest of lows and the highest of highs. We have great communication and always keep things completely honest between us. I suppose I should suck it up. He chose this ring for me, and I don't want to hurt his feelings. Please tell me what to do.

DISAPPOINTED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: Congratulations on your upcoming engagement. Your problem is unique because most of the letters I receive about engagement rings come from women who are disappointed that the stone is so small. However, if the size of the stone in the ring your boyfriend is giving you makes you uncomfortable, your response—after an enthusiastic "YES!!!"—could be, "But, darling, this stone is so large we will have to hire an armed guard to accompany me if I wear it outside the house. Are you sure it's WISE for me to wear this every day? I would be very happy with something more modest, you know." (It's worth a try.)

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have always been too kind and polite. I give money I shouldn't, say yes to favors I don't want to do and keep my mouth shut in situations where I should speak up. My best friend once told me I shouldn't say what she needed to hear, but only what she wanted to hear.

I have been in therapy for two years now, and have finally reached the point where I'm learning to say no. I love that when I meet strangers, I can use the skills I'm learning and be more assertive.

My friends and family are having a hard time with it. I broke up with the bestie because our relationship had been not only long, but also toxic and abusive. Other people I come in contact with now seem shocked if I say no or voice an opinion of my own. They then proceed to pressure me to change my mind, which makes me transform back into a mouse and comply so I won't seem rude. How can I get them to understand—in a polite way—that I am changing for the better, which includes putting myself, my needs and my decisions between yes and no first?

LOOKING OUT FOR NUMBER ONE

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

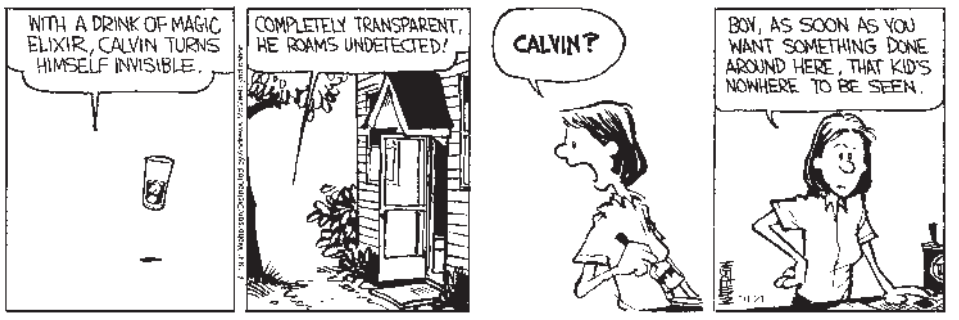
DEAR LOOKING OUT: You and your therapist appear to have been doing some good work. Of course people who hear you say no or state your honest opinion are having trouble with it. That's not the person you WERE. You are becoming a new person, someone with whom they are not used to dealing. Keep in mind that when someone asks you to do something you would rather not do, you ALWAYS have the right to refuse. And when you are pressured to change your opinion, what you should say is, "Intelligent minds can differ," or, "I'm entitled to my opinion." It's the truth.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

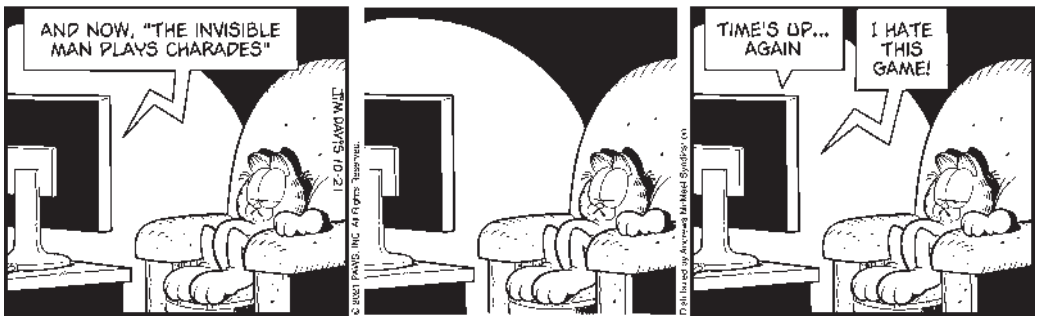
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WITH A DRINK OF MAGIC ELIXIR, CALVIN TURNS HIMSELF INVISIBLE.
COMPLETELY TRANSPARENT, HE ROAMS UNDETECTED!
CALVIN?
BOY, AS SOON AS YOU WANT SOMETHING DONE AROUND HERE, THAT KID'S NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OH! ANOTHER NICE REVIEW ON MY BOOK!
YEAH? AWESOME!
MAYBE WE DON'T TELL DAD ABOUT THIS ONE RIGHT NOW.
WHY? HE SHOULD CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESSES!
HE DOES, BUT THERE'S A WHOLE "QUESTIONING OF EVERYTHING" GOING ON.
MAYBE I SHOULD DIG DITCHES! THE WORLD NEEDS DITCHES, Y'KNOW!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

ARE YOU GOING TO EAT THAT ENTIRE BOX OF CHEESE CRACKERS?
I'M JUST GOING BY THE LABEL. IT SAYS ONE SERVING IS 113 G.
113 GRAMS IS ABOUT 4 OUNCES.
'GRAMS'? I THOUGHT IT MEANT GOBS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "Phooey!"
5 Swab the decks
8 From the top
12 Apiece
13 Rock's Brian
14 "Holy cow!"
15 "Alfred" composer
16 Seminary subj.
17 Jocular Johnson
18 Antenna
20 Tenant
22 Hosp. scan
23 Enzyme suffix
24 Bright star
27 Small hourglass
32 Verb for you
33 — Canals
34 Pub order
35 Flemish carto-grapher
38 L-Q bridge
39 Peri-odical, for short
40 "Levi-tating" singer Lipa
42 Loves to pieces
45 Released
49 Oz creator L. Frank —
50 Deli choice
52 Tea carrier
53 Diminutive suffix
54 Poem of praise
55 Being, to Brutus
56 Wonka's creator
57 Roofing goo
58 Beams

DOWN
1 Like Beethoven
2 Scarce
3 Teen's woe
4 Louise's pal
5 Most mirthful
6 Small bill
7 Survey
8 Tennis great Andre
9 Viking, e.g.
10 Noble Italian family
11 Sledder's cry
19 Hectic hosp. area
21 Dig in
24 "Platoon" locale
25 Miner's find
26 Martini ingredient
28 Stickum
29 "July's People" author Nadine
30 "Xanadu" band
31 Gym unit
36 Mount —
37 Candle count
38 Chess expert
41 NBC's "This Is —"
42 Sleeping
43 Info
44 Attempt
46 Celestial bear
47 Relaxed
48 Salon jobs
51 Nabokov novel

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	W	I	G		R	F	V		A	R	C	S
O	H	H	I		C	L	E		S	I	L	O
B	O	O	M	M	I	K	E		T	G	I	F
A	M	P	L	E			P	R	O	M	P	T
			E	W	E	S		B	R	O		
D	E	B	T		A	C	A	I		L	F	O
O	V	A		S	T	A	R	S		T	L	C
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		Y	E	N		P	H	A	T			
C	A	M	A	G	E			R	A	I	D	S
E	D	A	M		B	L	A	K	M	A	I	L
L	A	M	E		A	R	E		E	G	G	O
A	M	A	S		Y	I	N		N	O	S	E

Yesterday's answer 10-21

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19		■	20	21				
■	■	■	22			■	■	23			■	■
24	25	26		■	27	28	29				30	31
32			■	■	33			■	■	34		
35			36	37				■	38			
■	■	39			■	■	40	41		■	■	■
42	43				44	■	45			46	47	48
49				■	50	51			52			
53				■	54				55			
56				■	57			■	58			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Blanca Suarez, 33; Glen Powell, 33; Matt Dallas, 39; Judge Judy Sheindlin, 79.

Happy Birthday: Pay attention to detail, size up situations and don't vacillate. It's up to you to make decisions that will improve your life and your relationships with others. Put more thought and energy into activities that will benefit you mentally, emotionally and physically. Striving to be your best will improve your status quo. Don't mix emotions with financial or professional matters. Your numbers are 4, 10, 18, 23, 32, 35, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Spending time with someone you love will lift your spirits. A day trip will offer a different perspective of life, love and what's possible. Consider a lifestyle change that will ease stress and encompass doing something that brings you joy. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Emotional stubbornness will not help you get ahead. Take care of responsibilities, live up to promises and trust only those who have always been there for you. Don't spend on something you don't need. Stick to basics and practice moderation. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* There will be an undercurrent of misinformation that can affect your reputation. Be honest, or someone will question you until you tell the truth. You're better off not pushing your luck when dealing with authority. Be intelligent, disciplined and precise. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You'll get the help you need, but it will come at a cost. Try to handle as much as you can on your own, and it will offset going over budget. Stick close to home, and you'll avoid a social situation that makes you uncomfortable. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You'll get an emotional jolt from someone offering criticism. Consider what's said and whether it's constructive and can help you improve. Aim to be your best instead of letting anger and upset take over. Get your facts straight, and dazzle everyone. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* An experience you encounter will help you recognize who you can trust. Embrace a change that promises awareness, answers and a chance to make your life better. Budget wisely, and don't feel the need to pay for someone's mistakes. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take care of pressing matters personally. If you depend on others, you will be disappointed. Physical fitness will help you achieve the strength and the image you want to present to the world. Hold your head high, and strut your stuff. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A change of plans will leave you in limbo. Don't lament over something you cannot change; pick up the pieces, and proceed to do what you do best. Put your plans in motion, and don't stop until you reach your destination. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Emotional decisions and moves will set you back. When in doubt, stop and think about what you are doing. Put your energy into your responsibilities, and do the best job possible. Discipline and hard work will help you surpass your expectations. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Examine what you want to accomplish, then push ahead. Letting someone disrupt your plans or momentum will lead to defeat. Outsmart anyone who tries to upset you. Don't take the bait; proceed as planned, and success will follow. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't let your emotions take over or the decisions someone makes ruin your day. Concentrate on what you want to achieve, and don't stop until you reach your goal. Opportunity and financial gain are within reach. Stick to your plan. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A change to how you earn your living will push you in a new direction. Someone close to you will offer insight into options you may not have considered. Present what you have to offer with pizazz. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are loyal, innovative and playful. You are intelligent and vibrant.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5		2	8	4	
1		9			8	7
	6				2	
3			8	1		6
6			5	4		2
	3				8	
2		5			6	1
	7		4	9	3	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	9	5	4	7	8	6	1	3
1	3	7	5	2	6	4	9	8
4	6	8	9	3	1	5	7	2
6	7	4	8	1	2	3	5	9
8	1	9	3	5	7	2	6	4
3	5	2	6	4	9	1	8	7
7	4	1	2	8	5	9	3	6
9	8	3	1	6	4	7	2	5
5	2	6	7	9	3	8	4	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9:30

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

PLACES YOU CAN'T SMOKE **Solution: 7 letters**

T	S	C	H	A	P	E	L	C	O	L	L	E	G	E
U	N	T	P	E	T	R	O	L	A	R	E	A	S	T
C	N	E	A	E	A	I	I	T	A	O	B	N	R	C
O	S	I	M	D	X	I	I	S	S	D	Y	E	O	O
L	E	A	V	E	I	P	R	E	O	A	C	U	S	Ⓜ
I	G	M	U	E	S	U	M	P	L	N	R	M	Ⓡ	M
S	A	P	S	O	R	U	M	P	O	T	S	Ⓞ	O	U
E	R	D	H	E	F	S	M	C	O	R	Ⓓ	O	T	N
U	A	E	T	O	E	A	I	A	P	O	T	R	A	I
M	G	N	M	U	I	R	O	T	I	D	U	A	V	T
P	E	N	A	S	I	E	U	B	Y	C	A	R	E	Y
C	U	A	L	R	S	N	E	T	K	E	C	A	L	P
P	U	B	L	I	C	A	N	S	C	H	O	M	E	A
O	N	I	S	A	C	S	L	S	L	E	T	O	H	R
K	I	T	C	H	E	N	S	C	H	A	L	L	S	K

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Airport, Amusement, Areas, Arenas, Auditorium, Banned, Beach, Boat, Care, Casino, Center, Chapel, Class, Coliseum, College, Community, Concert, Court, Dorm, Elevators, Fumes, Game, Garages, Halls, Home, Hospital, Hotel, Inns, Kitchen, Lecture, Malls, Museum, Park, Petrol, Place, Play, Pool, Prisons, Public, Pubs, Room, Spas, Stadium, Taxi, Trucks, University

Yesterday's Answer: Freighter

The NEW **Treasury 43** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Astros awaken for 7 in 9th, beat Boston to tie ALCS 2-2

BOSTON (AP)—Jose Altuve hit a tying home run in the eighth inning and the Houston offense awakened with seven runs in the ninth on Tuesday night as the Astros came back to beat the Boston Red Sox 9-2, evening the AL Championship Series at two games apiece.

Six outs from falling behind 3-1 in the best-of-seven series and facing a Game 5 in Fenway Park—where Boston hadn't lost all postseason —the AL West champions instead guaranteed themselves at least one game back in Houston.

In a series that had been dominated by offense — especially Boston's — the teams traded first-inning homers and then both pitching staffs put up six straight zeros on the Fenway scoreboard before Altuve's leadoff shot in the eighth.

Carlos Correa doubled and scored the go-ahead run on Jason Castro's two-out single in the ninth. But that was just the beginning for Houston, which had seen Boston bully its pitchers for 10 homers in the series, including a record-setting three grand slams that turned Games 2 and 3 into routs.

"That's what they've been doing to us this whole series," Astros manager Dusty Baker said. "We're capable of doing that as well."

AP

Houston Astros' Alex Bregman watches his home run against the Boston Red Sox during the second inning in Game 4 of baseball's American League Championship Series Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021, in Boston.

After Alex Bregman hit a solo homer into the Green Monster seats in the first, Xander Bogaerts topped it with a towering, two-run drive onto Lansdowne Street in the bottom half to give the Red Sox a 2-1 lead.

Then, the pitchers took over: It was still 2-1 when Altuve led off the eighth with a homer against Garrett Whitlock.

Game 2 winner Nathan Eovaldi, making his first relief appearance since he was coming back from an injury in 2019, came on for the ninth and gave up Correa's leadoff double. With two outs and two on, Castro singled in Correa to give Houston the lead.

And the Astros just kept on scoring.

Michael Brantley hit a three-run double off Martín Pérez. Yordan Alvarez added an RBI single. Correa reached on a run-scoring infield single. Kyle Tucker singled in another run.

The Red Sox, who were the first team in major league history to have double digits in hits six straight times in a single postseason, had just five on Tuesday — two of them trailing by seven in the ninth.

Eovaldi took the loss, allowing four runs while recording just two outs. Kendall Graveman, the fifth Houston pitcher, threw two scoreless innings for the win.

Bogaerts followed Bregman's 354-foot homer into the Green Monster seats in the top of the first with a 403-foot shot in the bottom half that cleared the Wall, the seats and the billboards above them before landing on Lansdowne Street.

Nick Pivetta allowed just one more hit after Bregman's homer before leaving with a 2-1 lead through five innings.

It was the third straight game the Red Sox got five or more innings from a starter, and the third straight that the Houston starter didn't make it out of the second inning; Zack Greinke got just four outs on Tuesday.

Pivetta was charged with one run on two hits and two walks, striking out three. He got Altuve to end the fifth on a hard grounder to Rafael Devers at third. First baseman Kyle Schwarber made a nice play to scoop the throw; replays showed he pulled his foot off the bag, but the Astros did not challenge the call.

Altuve has 21 career postseason home runs, breaking a tie with Derek Jeter for third-most in baseball history. Manny Ramirez is the leader with 29, and Bernie Williams hit 22.

Red Sox manager Alex Cora had to be pulled back by third base coach Carlos Febles after J.D. Martinez was called out on strikes for the second out of the third inning.

With Alex Verdugo stealing second on the 3-2 pitch, umpire Laz Diaz called Martinez out on a pitch that appeared to be off the plate. Martinez said a few words, then Cora came out of the dugout and Febles and on-deck hitter Christian Vázquez held him back.

Baker also came out, apparently to point out Martinez had interfered with catcher Martín Maldonado as he tried to throw out Verdugo. Diaz left Verdugo at second, and Hunter Renfroe struck out to end the inning.

Bellinger, Betts rally Dodgers, cut Braves' NLCS lead to 2-1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Cody Bellinger keeps erasing a forgettable regular season, with his latest big swing putting the Los Angeles Dodgers right back in the NL Championship Series.

Bellinger hit a tying, three-run homer and Mookie Betts then lined an RBI double in the Dodgers' eighth-inning rally, storming back to beat Atlanta 6-5 Tuesday and cutting the Braves' lead in the series to 2-1.

"It's hard to remember a bigger hit, with what was at stake," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "I'm kind of exhausted now."

Some of the 51,307 fans had already left when the Dodgers were down to their final five outs and facing the daunting prospect of a 3-0 deficit in the series. Bellinger swung and missed two pitches down the middle for strikes, going to his knees in the dirt.

"Ball's coming in hard, some shadows you're dealing with, so I saw it well and I just tried to barrel it up," Bellinger said. "Just continue to barrel up the ball and pass the baton."

Bellinger drove a shoulder-high, 95.6-mph fastball from Luke Jackson into the right-field pavilion, igniting the blue towel-waving crowd and reviving the hopes of the defending World Series champions.

"Sad thing is I would do the same thing again," Jackson said. "I was trying to throw a fastball up and away. I actually threw it better than I thought I threw it. Out of my hand, I was like, `Oh, that's a ball. It's too high.' And no, it wasn't too high. Good player, put a good swing on it and pretty remarkable."

Chris Taylor singled, stole second and moved to third on pinch-hitter Matt Beaty's groundout. Betts followed with the double off Jesse Chavez to right-center.

"One of our strong suits is not worrying about what happened yesterday, focusing on right now," Betts said.

Game 4 is Wednesday at Dodger Stadium.

"We can do it, we're confident," Braves manager Brian Snitker said. "There is going to be no residual effects after this game."

The Dodgers had lost all 83 previous postseason games—in both Los Angeles and Brooklyn—in which they trailed by three or more runs in the eighth inning or later.

But that's history now. And so are Bellinger's recent struggles.

The 2019 NL MVP, Bellinger batted a miserable .165 this year with a paltry .240 on-base percentage and 94 strikeouts in 315 at-bats. He helped redeem himself last week with a tiebreaking single in the ninth inning of the decisive Game 5 of the NL Division Series against the rival Giants at San Francisco.

"Fresh start," Bellinger said of the postseason. "At least for me this year it's a fresh start. You know, a tough regular season but you know, I felt good towards the end of the season, and just try to continue that feel all the way through."

"Just you know, staying simple," he said. "Crazy things are happening."

Bellinger's done this before, too. After the Dodgers overcame a 3-1 deficit against Atlanta in the NLCS last year, his tiebreaking home run in the seventh inning won Game 7.

With the cheering, chanting crowd on its feet in the ninth, Kenley Jansen struck out the side to earn the save, the ninth pitcher used by the Dodgers. They ran through a combined 15 in the first two games.

Staggered with back-to-back walk-off losses in Atlanta, the Dodgers returned home, where they've dominated the Braves in recent years and were an MLB-best 58-23 during the regular season.

The Braves haven't won at Dodger Stadium since June 8, 2018. Going back to the 2013 NLDS, the Braves have dropped 20 of their last 23 in LA — they've lost 10 straight in Los Angeles overall.

It sure looked like they'd end that skid after leading 5-2 in the fifth.

After Corey Seager's two-run shot gave them an early lead, the Dodgers' offense stalled out from the second to eighth innings, with only five hits.

"It's never going to just be easy and handed to us," Bellinger said. "We got to fight for it."

But the wild-card winner staged another improbable comeback late, just like the Dodgers have done so often this postseason.

They beat St. Louis in the NL wild-card game, then edged 107-win San Francisco in the NLDS.

Despite trailing the best-of-seven series, the Dodgers have grabbed the momentum. They're at home for the next two games, knowing they overcame that 3-1 deficit against the Braves in last year's NLCS at a neutral site in Arlington, Texas.

The Braves built their lead with a bunch of singles, pounding out 12 hits, and a dropped flyball by novice center fielder Gavin Lux.

Freddie Freeman broke out of his slump, going 3 for 4 with a walk and a run scored after he struck out seven times in eight at-bats in the first two games.

Adam Duvall went 2 for 5, driving in two runs and scoring another for the Braves. Every Atlanta batter got on base at least once.

Tony Gonsolin got the victory, recording one out in relief.

Jackson took the loss after getting hammered in the eighth.

Eddie Rosario and Freeman jump-started the Braves with back-to-back singles off Walker Buehler to open the game.

The Braves quieted the crowd of 51,307 while knocking around Buehler and taking a 4-2 lead in the fourth.

Atlanta got RBI singles from Joc Pederson, Duvall and Dansby Swanson, and Buehler walked Rosario on four pitches with the bases loaded to force in another run.

Swanson's hit off his former Vanderbilt teammate went off the glove of shortstop Seager and rolled into left, allowing Pederson to score the go-ahead run as the Braves batted around.

Seager's wasn't the only miscue in the fourth. Lux chased Austin Riley's double to the warning track in right-center only to have the ball go off his glove to keep the inning going.

Buehler got yanked after walking Rosario. Working on two extra days' rest, Buehler allowed four runs and seven hits in 3 2/3 innings. The right-hander struck out three and walked three on 76 pitches.

Buehler pitched on short rest for the first time in his career in Game 4 of the NLDS. He didn't the win, but the Dodgers tied the series and forced a deciding fifth game.

Atlanta extended its lead to 5-2 in the fifth on Duvall's RBI single that scored Ozzie Albies, who walked and stole second.

The Dodgers had Charlie Morton on the ropes in the first, when he tied a postseason record with four walks on 34 pitches. The right-hander walked leadoff hitter Betts and Seager followed with a homer to center for a 2-0 lead.

Morton then loaded the bases on consecutive two-out walks to Justin Turner, Lux and Bellinger before Taylor lined out to short to end the inning.

Morton allowed two runs and three hits in five innings. The right-hander struck out five and walked six.

Bucks begin title defense with 127-104 victory over Nets

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks didn't let the celebration of the franchise's first NBA championship in half a century distract them as they opened their title defense.

In his first game since scoring 50 points in a title-clinching Game 6 NBA Finals victory over the Phoenix Suns, Antetokounmpo had 32 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists to lead the Bucks to a 127-104 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Tuesday night.

"We're part of history," Antetokounmpo said. "I'm excited. But now it's over with. We've got to focus on building good habits, keep moving forward and keep playing good basketball and hopefully we can repeat this again this year, next year and all the years that we're going to be here down the road."

Khris Middleton and Pat Connaughton each added 20 points to help the Bucks withstand the loss of Jrue Holiday, who sat out the second half with a bruised right heel after scoring 12 points. Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said MRI results on Holiday were encouraging.

Kevin Durant led the Nets with 32 points and 11 rebounds. Patty Mills scored 21 points and shot 7 of 7 from 3-point range. James Harden added 20 points.

AP
Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) is defended by Brooklyn Nets' James Johnson during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021, in Milwaukee.

"We weren't very good," Brooklyn coach Steve Nash said. "If you're not playing at a high level against the champs, you're not going to win."

The Nets were missing star guard Kyrie Irving, who isn't with the team due to his refusal to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

A New York mandate requires professional athletes on local teams to be vaccinated to practice or play in public venues. Rather than using Irving exclusively in road games, the Nets decided he wouldn't play or practice with them at all until he could be a full participant.

After receiving their rings, raising a banner and watching a highlight video of their first NBA championship since 1971, the Bucks defeated the team that nearly eliminated them in the second round of the playoffs. Antetokounmpo acknowledged that he teared up a little bit during the pregame ceremony.

"When they were playing those videos, you cannot help yourself but get emotional," Antetokounmpo said. "Looking back to the journey, where we started from and where we are right now."

Warriors 121, L akers 114

In Los Angeles, Stephen Curry had 21 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for the Golden State Warriors, who rallied from 10 points down to stun LeBron James, Anthony Davis and the new-look Los Angeles Lakers 121-114 in a season opener Tuesday night.

The loss spoiled opening night in Hollywood, where superstars James and Davis played brilliantly for three quarters before the Lakers went cold in the fourth.

James had 34 points and 11 rebounds, while Davis had 30 points and 11 rebounds. No other Lakers scored in double figures.

Russell Westbrook shot just 4 for 13 for eight points in his Lakers debut.

The Lakers had an 84-74 lead late in the third quarter after a jumper by Kent Bazemore, but the Warriors slowly closed the gap.

Curry made three free throws in the closing seconds of the third quarter after he was fouled taking a 3-pointer, and Jordan Poole and Damion Lee hit 3-pointers early in the fourth. Poole's layup with 9:17 left put the Warriors ahead for good at 91-90, and he finished with 20 points. The Warriors expanded the lead to 98-90 before the Lakers twice closed within two points.

But Curry and Nemanja Bjelica each hit 3-pointers to give the Warriors some breathing room. Bjelica had 15 points and 11 rebounds, while Lee also scored 15 points.

Davis and James dominated for much of the game while welcoming a slew of new teammates, including L.A. native and former league MVP Westbrook, Carmelo Anthony, Rajon Rondo, Dwight Howard and DeAndre Jordan.

L.A., which won the NBA title in the bubble in October 2020, retooled after losing to the Phoenix Suns in the first round of last season's playoffs. The Lakers retained just three players — James, Davis and Talen Horton-Tucker, who's out with a thumb injury.

James and Davis made 3-pointers and fallaway jumpers. In one remarkable sequence, James saved an errant pass and flicked it to Davis, who slammed it home for a 68-61 lead with 7:51 to go in the third quarter.

The Lakers, who went 0-6 in the preseason, led 59-53 at halftime.

Silver says he hopes Irving gets vaccinated

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Adam Silver, the basketball fan, would prefer to see Kyrie Irving on the court again with the Brooklyn Nets as soon as possible.

Adam Silver, the NBA commissioner, would prefer to see Irving vaccinated.

Silver said Monday he hopes Irving—one of the few players in the league who has not yet chosen to be vaccinated—changes his mind before long and clears a path to get back on the floor with the Nets.

"I would like to see our players vaccinated, because I think it's a public service of sorts, particularly to young people who might not see the value of getting vaccinated," Silver said on the eve of the league's 75th anniversary season, the third to be impacted by the coronavirus pandemic,

Irving cannot play for the Nets in large part because of rules unique to New York and San Francisco requiring vaccinations as a prerequisite for working. The Nets said last week that Irving would not be involved in team activities "until he is eligible to be a full participant."

And at this time, that means vaccinated. Silver would not disclose if he has spoken with Irving directly, but made his stance clear.

"There's nothing fair about this virus," Silver said. "It's indiscriminate in terms of who it impacts. And I think it's perfectly appropriate that New York and other cities have passed laws that require people who both work and visit arenas to be vaccinated. That seems to be a responsible public-health decision."

About 96% of NBA players have been vaccinated, Silver said. That means that about 20, or less than one per team on average, are not. Anyone working games in proximity to players this season, from referees to stat-crew employees, must be vaccinated by league mandate.

"I hope that Kyrie, despite how strongly he feels about the vaccination, ultimately decides to get vaccinated because I'd love to see him play basketball this season," Silver said.

In other matters Silver discussed Monday:

Silver said the league's $10 billion revenue projection for 2021-22 is based on having full arenas all season. He said the league missed revenue projections by about 35% last season, largely because arenas were not filled for much of the year.

There still are no resolutions to league investigations into the sign-and-trade deals that sent Lonzo Ball to Chicago and Kyle Lowry to Miami this summer. The investigations are trying to determine if the Bulls or Heat broke league rules by making contact with the players before the NBA's negotiating window opened.

Adding an in-season tournament, something Silver has sought for some time and models in part after what exists in European soccer, remains a viable possibility going forward. "I think we're still in the process of formulating what would be the best proposal for all concerned," Silver said.

Expansion will be a serious topic again, "at some point," Silver said. Seattle is a city the league is eyeing, but the league won't look at growing past the current 30 teams until it is "fully through the pandemic and know that we're back operating on all cylinders."

Some other storylines entering the 2021-22 season:

GIANNIS' GOALS

The last time there was an NBA contest that mattered, Giannis Antetokounmpo picked the perfect time to have the game of his life.

His numbers: 50 points, 14 rebounds. Only the third such game with that many points and rebounds in NBA Finals history. The Milwaukee Bucks were crowned world champions for the first time in 50 years, Antetokounmpo —who played through a knee injury in the series—was the easy choice as NBA Finals MVP.

And if that wasn't enough, the story might have gotten even happier for Bucks fans two months later when Antetokounmpo announced that he's just getting started.

"I don't care about trophies. I don't care about the MVP's. I don't care about defensive player of the years. All those things, I don't care,"Antetokounmpo said. "I care about getting better because I know if I do that, there's more things coming."

The Bucks will try to become the first Eastern Conference team to win back-to-back NBA titles since Miami in 2012 and 2013.

INTERNATIONAL MATTERS

This season is only the third in NBA history that will begin with the reigning MVP and NBA Finals MVP both hailing from outside the U.S. Antetokounmpo, who is Greek, won the finals award and Denver's Nikola Jokic, from Serbia, was the overwhelming pick for the regular-season honor.

Nigeria's Hakeem Olajuwon won both awards in the 1993-94 season, and in 2006-07, San Antonio's Tony Parker (France) won Finals MVP while Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki (Germany) won the regular-season MVP award.

BACK TO NORMAL

If all goes to plan, this will be the first season since 2018-19 where all teams play an 82-game schedule.

Teams played somewhere between 64 and 75 games in the 2019-20 season because of the interruption caused by the pandemic, and the schedule called for 72 games apiece last season—shortened by the pandemic.

NEW BALL

The league has a new ball this season, going back to a ball made by Wilson—which provided the game ball for the first 37 NBA seasons. The league had been using Spalding since, before introducing the new ball over the summer.

"There is a difference," said Miami guard Duncan Robinson, one of the league's top 3-point shooters. "They tried to say it's the same material, which it might be. ... But the reality is, the feel is very similar and it's just a matter of getting totally comfortable with it. At this point, it basically feels normal."

In terms of specifications and the leather, the Wilson and Spalding balls are believed to be as close to identical as possible. The leather comes from the same manufacturer. But there is one subtle change, in that the Wilson ball is a slightly different shade of orange.

CHASING MICHAEL

Golden State's Stephen Curry won the league's scoring title last season, averaging 32.0 points per game in a season where he turned 33.

Only one player was an older NBA scoring champion: Michael Jordan turned 35 during the 1997-98 season, when he led the NBA in scoring for the final time.

Snyder joins Oceania Athletics Coaches' Association

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Northern Marianas Athletics distance running coach and cross country director Ron Snyder has been appointed to the Oceania Athletics Coaches' Association.

The OACA, which is under the Oceania Athletics Association Council, was established in line with the OAA Constitution and Development Commission Terms of Reference and will ensure that all aspects of the sport in each of the Oceania federations is well serviced with highly trained coaches. OAA said it called for expressions of interest and the members of OACA were appointed by the OAA Council.

The role of OACA is to provide expertise, advice and recommendations for the information and approval of the Oceania Development Commission on matters that support the growth, development and administration of coaching at the area and national level through education and other related activities.

Snyder, who is also the headmaster of Saipan International School and secretary and treasurer of Run Saipan, thanked the OAA Council for his appointment to the OACA.

"It is a great honor to be working with the Oceania Athletics Development Commission, representing the coaches of Oceania. It is an amazing opportunity for me and I would like to thank NMA for all of its support in my appointment as well as their support in sending me to the IAAF (WA) Lecturers course and the IAAF Level II Middle Long Distance Coaches course. I have learned so much during these training courses and I look forward to being able to work with OAA to extend these types of opportunities to prospective coaches across the region," he said.

MARK RABAGO

Northern Marianas Athletics distance running coach and cross country director Ron Snyder, fourth from left, poses with other NMA officials, led by president Ramon Tebuteb, right, at the end of the 2021 PSS/NMA Cross Country Championships last Oct. 9 at the old Saipan Country Club golf course behind Saipan Vegas.

According to the OAA, Snyder is a middle-distance Level 2 coach and Level 1 assistant lecturer with over 25 years' experience at school level coach and travelled internationally as coach of NMI athletes. He has coached at international schools and is involved in developing sports within schools.

Aside from Snyder, the slew of appointments include Jerry Brunt of Samoa as OACA chairperson, Nik Hagicostas and Leanne Hines-Smith of Australia, Kirsten Hellier of New Zealand, Desmond Mandell III of Guam, and Lolomanaia Tuifua of Tonga.

Brunt is a member of the OAA Development Commission and president of Athletics Samoa. His background as a lawyer and respected sports administrator in Samoa will ensure he provides strong governance to OACA.

When advised about his appointment, Brunt said "I am thrilled to be appointed to the Oceania Athletics Coaches' Association. The development of Athletics in our 20 Oceania member dederations and three associate federations is extremely important to me and I am honored to be asked to be the chairperson of OACA. I look forward to working alongside the appointed members of the committee and together with our coaches providing a coaches' voice to the area association through OACA and the OAA Development Commission."

Hagicostas is a coach lecturer who has been coaching international level athletes for over 30 years. He is passionate about guaranteeing coaches throughout the area have specific teaching/coaching requirements and wants to develop a support network for coaches targeted to Oceania.

Hines-Smith is a teaching professional, actively involved with development of sporting policies, mentor of teacher coaches, appointed member of Australian Athletics Coaches Advisory Group, a Level 4 coach and Australian team manager and coach of Lataisi Mwea (Kiribati), a Tokyo Olympian.

Hellier is the current coach development lead at Athletics NZ, with over 30 years' experience in high performance coaching and a member of High-Performance Sport NZ Coach Advisory Group, who is currently mentoring and leading development programs for women in sport/coaching.

Mandell has been the national team head coach for Guam and has years of experience coaching athletes. The public relations officer for his national federation, and a former athlete, Mandell understands the importance of the entire sport having a voice.

Tuifua brings the perspective of an island coach who is passionate about developing the sport throughout the entire area. He is a world athletics coach lecturer, jumps, sprints/hurdles and middle-distance coach, and Team Tonga national coach.

The first meeting of OACA is expected to be held later this month.

TANHOLDINGS

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Chang Bai Hu was silent in the entire first half and only avoided a shutout loss when Ming Guang Xu connected on his shot in the 77th minute.

Shirley's FC 2, Bangladesh FC

Shirley's also blanked Bangladesh FC for a winning start in the season.

Jack Phan and Hojin Woo nailed the pair of goals for Shirley's with the former scoring in the 27th minute and the latter in the 60th.

Meanwhile, 10 teams are competing in the Hafa Adai Cup with Saipan United, Bangladesh Youth, Matansa, Island Star, the NMI U18 Women's National Team, and Kanoa having their season debut this week.

In the MSL Cup, Kanoa will collide against the NMI Boys U18 National Team tonight for their first game of the season.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	0	0	.000	—
New York	0	0	.000	—
Philadelphia	0	0	.000	—
Toronto	0	0	.000	—
Brooklyn	0	1	.000	½

Southeast Division

Atlanta	0	0	.000	—
Charlotte	0	0	.000	—
Miami	0	0	.000	—
Orlando	0	0	.000	—
Washington	0	0	.000	—

Central Division

Milwaukee	1	0	1.000	—
Chicago	0	0	.000	½
Cleveland	0	0	.000	½
Detroit	0	0	.000	½
Indiana	0	0	.000	½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	0	0	.000	—
Houston	0	0	.000	—
Memphis	0	0	.000	—
New Orleans	0	0	.000	—
San Antonio	0	0	.000	—

Northwest Division

Denver	0	0	.000	—
Minnesota	0	0	.000	—
Oklahoma City	0	0	.000	—
Portland	0	0	.000	—
Utah	0	0	.000	—

Pacific Division

Golden State	1	0	1.000	—
L.A. Clippers	0	0	.000	½
Phoenix	0	0	.000	½
Sacramento	0	0	.000	½
L.A. Lakers	0	1	.000	1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VELORIA

From Page 20

always have training. That gave me a lot of skills and I used those skills during the games. I also always played against higher-ranked players to adopt some of their techniques," he said.

Veloria also admitted that of the two championships he won, the hardest to get was the men's doubles because he and Antonio had to dig themselves out of a first set hole.

"It was intensely played so after the championship shot we shouted in relief because facing Leonard [Manuel] and Noel [Waitwat] wasn't easy."

Relatively new to badminton on the island, Veloria actually fell in love with the sport when he was just 16 years old.

"I've been playing since grade school up to college days, but I stopped for more than nine years. Then I resumed playing again this year."

Yoko Borja duplicated Veloria's multiple championships in the women's singles and women's doubles divisions.

In the women's singles, Borja outlasted Northern Marianas Badminton Association president Merlie Tolentino in the finals, 20-21, 21-5, 21-9, to take home the championship. Borja advanced to the championship round after a 20-7, 20-10 win over Lani Santos. Tolentino made it into the finals following a 21-15, 21-18 victory over Gladys Dacumos.

In the women's doubles, Borja teamed up with Hiroko Tajima to upend Tolentino and Santos, 21-16, 21-9. Borja and Tajima advanced to the finals after beating Lala Augustino, 21-13, 21-12, while Tolentino and Santos dropped, Sophia Quintos and Gigi Zapanta, 21-19, 15-21, 21-17, to reach the championship round.

Tajima and Antonio also went home with two championships in the C division after the duo teamed up to win the mixed doubles. Tajima and Antonio met Veloria and Jadel Ignacio in the finals and nailed the win with a 20-21, 21-14, 21-19 win.

About 70 players competed in the TakeCare Insurance Co., Inc.-sponsored tournament. Results of the junior tournament will be published in tomorrow's issue of the *Saipan Tribune*.

SHAMMI

From Page 20

Irish Pagarao and A.J. Garion also suited up for the second-placed team.

Alferos said the final score of the championship game wasn't really indicative of the struggle Shammi had to go through in beating BellaBalls in the finals.

"I'd say that despite the score at the end, it was a tough game through and through. It was tough because the team we were up against was strong. They had two veterans from the national team. It was a physical game going up against great players so of course that was a tough game," she said.

The cat-quick point guard added that while her team did ended up with 16 points in the finals, Shammi's trademark the entire 3x3 tournament was its hard-nosed defense.

"I would say the defense was key in all of the games. Playing good defense is where we hang our hats on. None of the teams had high scores against our team because we planned ahead who to man and transitioned quickly from offense to defense," she said.

A total of 10 teams battled for supremacy in the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation-organized tournament's women's division. Aside from champion Shammi and runner-up BellaBalls, other women's teams that took part in the 3x3 tournament were Acers, Team Agape, Alley-Oops, That One Team, Small Giants, CrushOver, Tinian Typhoon, and Gang Gang.

In the men's division, End Game routed Babeholics for the title. Other men's teams that participated were the Outlaws, Roll'Aces, Tinian Typhoon, D. Cider, The Game, and Hole in the Wall.

The U18 division had six teams signing up, including champion Ol'Aces Real Deal, runner-up Chinatown Chargers, Tinian Typhoon, MadFlex, San Antonio Sixers, and the Rollers' Undercooked Rolls.

Chinatown Chargers coach Walter Mendez thanked NMIBF for a well-run tournament.

"You guys had a great turnout and should be commended for the amazing effort and energy in organizing this event. The kids are surely motivated to continue to train and grind out for their love for my first girlfriend…..basketball," he said.

Tinian Typhoon coach Keith Nabors seconded Mendez when he said, "Thank you all for the wonderful tourney. Until the next one!"

NMIBF president James Lee congratulated End Game, Shammi, and Ol'Aces Real Deal for taking home the 3x3 championships in their respective divisions. He also thanked all the participating teams across the men's, women's and U18 divisions.

"Great job coaches and congrats to all the athletes. Hope you all enjoyed the games and most importantly are motivated to continue on becoming better players and stay on with the programs of your respective clubs," he said.

Astros awaken for 7 in 9th, beat Boston to tie ALCS 2-2

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Snyder joins Oceania Athletics Coaches' Association

PAGE 19

TanHoldings, Paire win season openers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

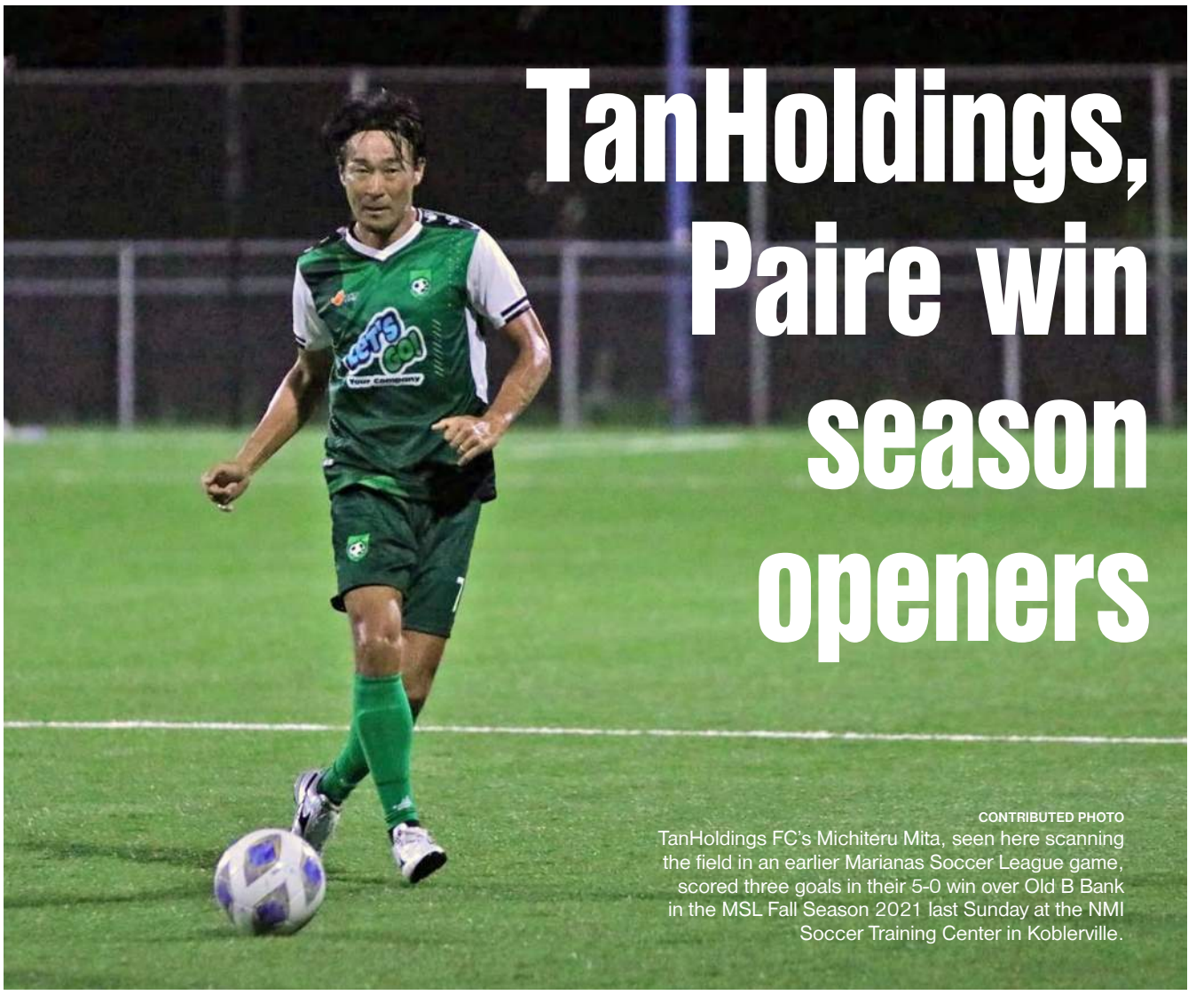
The Marianas Soccer League Fall Season kicked of last Sunday with TanHoldings Football Club and Paire Football Club prevailing in their respective games in the MSL Cup at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

TanHoldings waltzed past the Old B Bank in the first match in the division, 5-0, while Paire outclassed Eleven Tiger, 5-3.

Michitetu Mita powered TanHoldings to the lopsided win after firing three goals, while Joshua Waldo and Rakib Hassan added one goal apiece. Mita had back-to-back goals in the second half when he got his second in the 52nd minute and the third in the 66th, while his first was registered in the 27th. Waldo and Hassan scored in the 41st and 89th minute, respectively.

In the other MSL Cup game, Paire drew goals from five different players with Jireh Yobech hitting the board first in the 26th minute and followed by Ryuto Yanai (51st), Pete Loken (57th), Mareko Tekopua (64th), and Steve McKagan (78th).

Nick Holt delivered the first goal for Eleven Tiger in the 23rd minute, while the last two game from Tanapon Unsa, who found the back of the net in the 87th and 89th.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
TanHoldings FC's Michiteru Mita, seen here scanning the field in an earlier Marianas Soccer League game, scored three goals in their 5-0 win over Old B Bank in the MSL Fall Season 2021 last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

HAFA ADAI CUP
The One FC 3, Chang Bai Hu 1

In the final match of the opening week of the fall season, The One FC topped Chang Bai Hu.

Zhipeng Lin, Scott Kim, and Don Cabrera teamed up in handing The One FC the win in Week 1 of the competition. Lin scored right in the first minute, while Kim and Cabrera made their goals in the 11th and 38th.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shammii's Mikki Kautz attempts an off-balanced shot against BellaBalls' Marlene Lumabi and Irish Pagarao during their finals match in the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation 3x3 Hoop Fest last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Shammi shimmies to women's championship

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Shammi defeated BellaBalls, 16-8, in a battle of undefeated teams in the finals of the women's division of the NMIBF 3×3 Hoop Fest last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Shanesse Aldan and Mary Kay Alferos pumped in 8 points apiece, while Mikki Kautz and Gabrielle Race provided the muscle inside plus tough defense to lead Shammi to the Promised Land.

Like Shammi, BellaBalls also finished with a 3-0 win-loss in the elimination round only to be routed in the finals by the eventual champions. Jeraldine Castillo led BellaBalls in scoring in the loss with 6 markers, while Marlene Lumabi added 2.

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Veloria victorious in C division

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Sefric Veloria made a spectacular debut in the C division of the TakeCare Badminton Open 2021 after winning the men's singles and men's doubles titles over the weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The 29-year-old Saipan Ice and Water Co. employee didn't drop a set in the men's singles and won the championship following a 21-14, 21-18 victory over Dez Antonio.

The Laguna, Philippines native then teamed up with Antonio in the men's doubles and also didn't drop a set until the championship round. In the finals, the men's singles powerhouses struggled in the first set before overwhelming the pair of Leonard Manuel and Noel Waitwat, 17-21, 21-12, 21-17.

Veloria attributed his multiple championship runs in the C division to practice sessions with CNMI national players and A division mainstays Andreau Galvez and Lance Gallardo. Galvez also was the men's singles A champion of the same tournament.

"Before the tournament we

See VELORIA on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
C Division men's singles champion Sefric Veloria, third from left, poses for a photo with Northern Marianas Badminton Association officials during the awards ceremony for the TakeCare Badminton Open 2021 last Friday at the NMSA conference room at the Oleai Sports Complex.